

COVID-19 Housing Testing Presidential Order

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Tue 11/10/2020 1:52 PM

To: publicity@csusm.edu <publicity@csusm.edu>



California State University
SAN MARCOS

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Dear resident,

We know this has been a challenging year for you and your loved ones. Please know that our faculty and staff are continuing to work tirelessly to ensure your success and well-being in these extraordinary times.

Your safety remains our top priority. As part of our ongoing effort to protect the health and safety of you and our residential community, CSUSM is implementing a new directive that will require all students living in campus housing to be regularly tested for COVID-19. This new mandate, as part of a CSUSM presidential order, will begin on Monday, Nov. 16.

Testing is a critical part of reducing the spread of the virus. The health of our community here in CSUSM Housing depends on each of us doing our part through our everyday actions and regular testing. Below is information about this new order, how it will be implemented and scheduled based on your apartment assignment, and details on limited exemptions. You will receive additional information this week from Housing on the schedule, location, hours and Housing Addendum. Testing is available on campus at no cost.

If you have any questions, we're here to help. Please contact the Dean of Students Office at 760-750-4935.

CSUSM COVID-19 Housing Testing Presidential Order

In coordination with the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM) mandates COVID-19 testing at its on-campus testing site, or as otherwise exempted below, for undergraduate students living in CSUSM Student Housing at the QUAD or University Village Apartments (UVA).

Regular testing is now part of CSUSM's ongoing strategy to mitigate and monitor the spread of COVID-19. The purpose of the mandated testing is to address real-time trends and prevalence

within CSUSM Student Housing, mitigate the spread of COVID-19, and inform intervention and response decisions.

All students living in the QUAD or UVA will be assigned a testing time slot based on their apartment assignment. Testing will be conducted at the San Diego County testing site, located in CSUSM's Viasat Engineering Pavilion, just off Palm Canyon Drive near Markstein Hall and the Epstein Family Veterans Center.

Testing will begin the week of Nov. 16 for all students in living in the QUAD or UVA, and will be ongoing at a frequency of no less than every two weeks.

Ongoing Testing Requirement

Following the initial phase of testing for all students in campus housing, CSUSM requires student residents to be regularly tested at least every two weeks. Students will receive an email reminding them to be tested in the designated week.

There are limited exemptions to this testing requirement, which are noted in the section below. Beyond those exemptions, failure to respond and comply may result in sanctions, including but not limited to a directive to quarantine until testing can be completed and/or a referral to student conduct.

As a reminder, students who chose to participate in student housing agreed to abide by the terms outlined in the License Agreement for 2020-2021 and its COVID-19 Addendum, as well as the residential education handbook and other housing rules and regulations. Under CSUSM's Student Conduct Procedures, students are also responsible for not engaging in off-campus conduct that threatens the safety or security of the campus community or substantially disrupts the functions or operations of CSUSM. We appreciate that all students are being responsible and considerate of their community. Testing is what will allow us to keep everyone safe and healthy and continue serving the campus community. For more information or to review those policies, see

https://www.csusm.edu/dos/documents/csusm_off_campus_conduct_final.pdf.

Request for Exemptions

Student residents may request an exemption from this testing requirement. CSUSM may determine to grant an exemption for one or more of the following reasons:

- If the student has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days, they do not need to be tested again during that 90-day period (this does not mean you are immune). If a student tested positive in the last 90 days and/or before coming to CSUSM, they will need to provide acceptable verification of the positive test. Being exempt from the testing requirement does not make the student resident exempt from other COVID-19 mitigation measures, including any requirement to quarantine or self-isolate.
- Prefers, and provides proof of completion of, being tested for COVID-19 at a community-based testing site, health center or pharmacy, within three calendar days of their

designated test time at the student's sole expense; or

- Pursuant to applicable university policy and procedure regarding a request for accommodation, has a disability for which not taking the test is determined by the Office of Disability Support Services to be a reasonable accommodation, or makes a request for accommodation for another verifiable reason (such as a sincerely held religious belief) for which not taking the test is determined by the university to be a reasonable accommodation.

University officials will evaluate all requests for exemption through Student Health and Counseling Services. If requests for exemption are denied, students are required to complete COVID-19 testing as directed. In order to submit your request for an exemption, please email Dr. James Chun, the Interim Medical Director, at jchun@csusm.edu.

Thank you to all members of our campus community who are continuing to adhere to public health measures to stop the spread of COVID-19. Stay well and know that we are in this together.

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