



State of California Issues New Order: Stay Home Except for Essential Needs

Dear CSUSM Community,

Earlier this evening, California Gov. Gavin Newsom announced that the California State Public Health Officer and Director of the California Department of Public Health is [ordering all individuals living in the State of California to stay home](#) or at their place of residence except as needed to maintain continuity of operation of the [federal critical infrastructure sectors](#). This mandatory order is in effect beginning today, **Thursday, March 19**, until further notice.

Everyone must stay home except to get food, care for a relative or friend, get necessary health care or go to an essential job. This is a critical intervention to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

As you know, we have been preparing for this possibility by moving instruction and services to online modalities, as well as shifting most employees to work remotely. We appreciate the enormous effort this has required by so many who continue to focus first and foremost on the health and safety of our community and our students and their success.

CSUSM Impact

Moving forward, our University Police Department remains open 24/7 and student health services are available (students should call 760-750-4915 first before arriving in person).

Additionally, employees designated to assist with critical functions, including essential business, such as facility, security, IT, vivaria, will be allowed on campus if designated by their supervisor.

Housing also remains open for students who have chosen to stay living on campus. However, for those who are still planning to move out, we encourage you to do so immediately.

In addition, Gov. Newsom shared that he has been in recent conversations with California State University and University of California leadership to prepare contingency plans in case campus facilities across the state are needed to support emergency health efforts. We will update you if our campus is needed.

While news of this new statewide health order may feel alarming, we also understand that this is an important and necessary step to prevent a worsening public health situation. Please take heart. These are extraordinary times, but we will get through this together. Our campus community has already demonstrated such resiliency and care for one another, and we commend all of you for all that you have done.

We know there continues to be great ambiguity surrounding this ongoing health crisis and that you may have questions and concerns. We will continue to share timely information and updates as we have them. In the meantime, if you have questions, please email covid@csusm.edu.

Sincerely,

Ellen Neufeldt
President

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