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"Spring Semester COVID Update"

Tomás D. Morales

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Subject: Spring Semester COVID Update

Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 9:28:29 AM Pacific Standard Time

From: President Morales

To: Colleagues, Students



To the Campus Community:

Recent news regarding the COVID-19 virus is regrettably disappointing at a time when planning for the future is at the forefront of ongoing discussions at Cal State San Bernardino and throughout the nation.

Daily updates reflect the virus' resurgence signified by a rapid increase in its extent and pervasiveness. Case numbers are spiking in California and most of the United States. Hospitalizations are rising, burdening an already overtaxed health care system and overwhelming exhausted frontline workers and first responders. Municipalities, counties and the state have enacted expanded restrictions, with even more stringent measures expected should the upward trends continue.

As we close our fall semester here at CSUSB, we join with other CSU member institutions in reassessing what lies ahead. We have already committed to continuing the majority of instruction utilizing virtual modalities. Classes for the 2021 spring semester will still begin on January 23 as scheduled. As for the limited number of arranged in-person labs and classes, these will begin the spring semester utilizing virtual modalities only, with no on-campus instruction taking place any earlier than February 1. Students will receive instructions through MyCoyote and their faculty members regarding scheduled in-person labs and classes prior to the beginning of term.

Faculty, staff and students are reminded to complete the Daily Health Screenings – and strongly encouraged to be tested for the virus – when returning to campus after

intercession.

Our top priority continues to be the health, safety and welfare of our students, faculty and staff. We will continue to gather input from national, state and local health professionals, review guidelines and protocols, and take part in discussions with leaders and colleagues throughout the CSU and higher education. Our responsibility is to assure our campus and the local communities that we are drawing on all available resources to best mitigate this pandemic while effectively continuing to meet students' needs and our educational mission.

A webinar presentation to the campus by Corwin Porter, director of the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health, is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 10, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. He will present the state of COVID in San Bernardino County. An invitation has been sent to all members of the campus community providing a link to the presentation.

It is essential that, as responsible individuals, we recognize the challenges facing us during the upcoming winter break. While traditionally a period of respite and rejuvenation shared with family, friends and neighbors, this year it is vital to take all possible precautions during our away time to stay safe and healthy. I urge each of you to remain vigilant and follow recommended distancing and preventive practices, restricting travel and your circle of contacts.

We find ourselves confronted with a constantly changing situation. I ask everyone to be mindful of developments that may arise during the winter break requiring further modifications to protocols and procedures.

I am extremely grateful to each of you for your shared commitment to protecting the most vulnerable among us. Together, we will prevail through these difficult times and enjoy a brighter, better tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Tomás D. Morales

President

We Define the Future

