Spring 2022 Update
Town Hall Meeting

January 6-7, 2022
Main Takeaways

1. We are moving most classes to virtual delivery for the first two weeks of the semester (January 24-February 6).

2. We are moving the CSU required booster vaccination deadline for eligible students, administrators, and confidential employees from February 28 to February 6, to coincide with the first week of mostly in-person classes.

3. In-person staffing for student services and other campus functions through the first two weeks of the semester will be navigated by managers and their teams.
Ongoing consultation with VCPH and Chancellor’s Office. Meetings with campus leaders including Senate Officers, Staff Council Executive Board, and Student Government

Anticipated peak of new cases week of January 24; sharp decline expected after the surge

Increased focus on severity and hospitalization rates rather than number of cases – based on initial data

Projected contribution of Omicron infections to individual and herd immunity and eventual movement from pandemic to endemic

At the same time, we need to be thinking about our vulnerable populations, and Delta is still in play

*Also, positive cases on campus require comprehensive response as required by CalOSHA – regardless of severity
  - Cleaning within 24 hours; contact tracing and notification protocols; quarantine and isolation requirements; etc.
Context

• While severity may be less (although there is some debate on this point), higher number of cases adds significant level of disruption to the learning environment

• Level of disruption going virtual for the first two weeks v. bringing everyone back as planned and navigating increased number of cases
  • Impact on student engagement and success?

• Fall 2021 return v. Spring 2022 return
  • August 2021: Delta spike; peak showed 7-day average in VC at 320 cases; 14-day % of new cases - vaccinated individuals 20-24%
  • January 2022: As of January 5, 7-day average in VC at 1196 cases; as of January 3, 14-day % of new cases - vaccinated individuals 41%; overall hospitalization rate is still very low among vaccinated individuals at .05%

• Testing clinics on campus this week – increased positivity rate
Decision #1

Move most classes to virtual delivery for the first two weeks of the semester.

• Goals:
  • Reduce population density during Omicron peak
  • Reduce positive case rates and attending disruptions necessitated by mitigation and safety protocols
  • Process to determine which classes will meet in person
  • Managers and their teams to navigate evolving need for in-person services
Decision #2

Move CSU-required booster vaccination deadline for eligible students, administrators, and confidential employees from February 28 to February 6.

• Booster vaccine supplies in Ventura County plentiful to meet revised deadline

• Earlier deadline coincides with the first week of mostly in-person classes beginning the week of February 7

• Negotiations with unions for requiring the booster vaccine of represented employees will be conducted centrally by the CSU
Decision #3

Finalize the process for allowing students, administrators, and confidential employees to upload documentation of their booster vaccine by February 6 or when they become eligible for the booster.

- Booster eligibility introduces a new complication to Fall 2021 procedures
- Directions for uploading booster documentation coming soon
  - Represented employees: Voluntary submission while negotiations underway
- Approved exemptions from Fall 2021 are still in effect
- Testing requirements and enforcement
Moving Forward

• Instructions forthcoming for uploading booster documentation
• Re-entry testing required for students in housing
• Individuals with approved exemptions required to test weekly; previously-approved exemptions remain in effect
• Tracking and compliance logistics and infrastructure
• Provost and Deans in collaboration with faculty to determine in-person classes/activity the first two weeks of the semester
• Determining level of required in-person operations to support students on campus (Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, BFA)
• Update Spring 2022 webpage and FAQ’s
Moving Forward

• On-campus testing: January 10-13; 18-21; 25-27; with continued testing into February

• On-campus booster vaccination clinics
  • Thursday, January 27 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
  • Thursday, February 17 and Thursday, March 10 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
  • Additional clinics TBD, up to twice weekly in lead-up to February 7
  • Both Moderna and Pfizer doses available
  • Location: El Dorado Hall

• Behavioral Mitigation:
  • Booster requirement
  • KN-95 masks
  • Review of safety protocols from Fall 2021 with EH&S and VCPH

• Please stay home and get tested if symptomatic