



February 10, 2021

Dear ThunderWolves:

As announced in campus messages last Friday, Feb. 5 and today, recent improvements to our community's COVID-19 dial status means that on Feb. 22, CSU Pueblo will move into a less restrictive mode of operations, and **additional in-person, face-to-face (F2F) courses can begin Monday, Feb. 22.**

As of today, Pueblo County is in Blue on the COVID-19 dial, but that may change. Given the current community status, our hope is to shift operations on Feb. 22 to Blue, but we must remain vigilant, and that decision may change depending on where Pueblo County is on the dial at that time. We will align with Pueblo County's situation and communicate which operations plan, Yellow or Blue, will go into effect on Feb. 22 **no later than Wed, Feb. 17.** Please pay special attention to your Pack email, our website and social media for additional information.

In preparation for that move, we wanted you to have time to review the campus plans now for both color levels and to know that our campus will be ready to implement either option to best support your success. Today's message should allow you to be prepared for either option, when Feb. 22 is finalized. A few items of note:

- [Yellow](#) operations mean that more courses will offer face-to-face (F2F) or hybrid options, particularly those with a strong need to meet in-person. A shift to [Blue](#) will mean all of our courses would move to whichever mode of instruction is indicated on the [schedule](#). **Instructors will communicate directly with students who will start in F2F classes Feb. 22 via email and Blackboard.** Questions about the plan for F2F instruction in each class should be directed to the instructors and department chairs.
- The shift to either [Yellow](#) or [Blue](#) operations means that the [Student Recreation Center](#) will expand Feb. 22 to 50% capacity, with group size limitations, special hours, and distancing requirements in place as necessary. Dining options expand under both plans, with increasing capacity in the Pack Café.
- On-campus COVID testing will still be available for our students at all levels of the dial and will be required for all students living in campus housing or participating in certain activities. For more details about testing requirements at each level, please view the [Yellow](#) and [Blue](#) plans.
- If you will be returning to campus for the first time this semester under either Yellow or Blue operations, please **make plans now to test the week of Feb. 15**, as a first-time test is required for re-entry to campus. Learn more by visiting our [testing portal how-to video](#). You can register and schedule a testing appointment in our [testing portal](#).

University Services

The University will expand on-campus business operations up to 50% staffing capacity beginning Feb. 22 as well. **Critical service offices as identified in the plans will be staffed in-person from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.**

All other campus offices will continue to be available with remote service options Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and once we move to [Blue](#) operations level, with in-person hours from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If you are having any difficulty accessing technology resources, ranging from your student PAWS account to Blackboard or other services, [visit our Information Technology page](#) and submit an online help ticket that includes the information our team needs to help get you back on track.

Commencement

We are moving forward with planning for in-person Commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 8, 2021 and are cautiously optimistic that it will be possible, as the COVID rates in our community continue to decline. We will continue to work with our State and local public health officials to make a smart decision, with the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, guests, and community members held as our top priority. Providing our graduates the opportunity to walk across the stage in their regalia is important to us, and we are making every effort possible to provide this experience to our graduates.

At this time, we do not know if we will be able to accommodate guests at the in-person ceremony. We will announce more details as they become available. A virtual ceremony will also be produced for students and guests who cannot travel back to campus in May or for those who do not feel comfortable doing so. It will also be an alternative plan should the COVID dial move back up to 'Orange' or 'Red' or 'Purple' in May.

All graduates will create a slide when reserving their in-person or virtual seat for their ceremony that will be utilized in the virtual ceremony. We encourage spring graduates to [update your contact information](#) and check the [commencement website](#) frequently for updates. We also encourage graduates to text Grad21 to 76626 for updates.

The [Student COVID Resources page](#) is a great starting place for any COVID-related questions you may have, and you should feel free to contact our offices for additional support.

Best wishes,

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