



April 28, 2021

Campus Community,

Today, the Colorado State University System joined our colleagues across Colorado (including Ft. Lewis, Colorado College, the University of Colorado System, and others) in announcing that on-campus faculty, staff, and students will be required to be immunized against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. This requirement is conditioned upon full approval of one or more vaccines by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), approval of the CSU System Board of Governors, as well as continued and increasing availability of the vaccines, and will become effective at the beginning of the fall 2021 semester. You can read Chancellor Tony Frank's message here: <https://csusystem.edu/news/>

Certainly, this decision is a bold one, and numerous implementation details have yet to be determined. Many decisions will be made at the system level, in consultation with our system leadership and legal counsel, while other issues will be addressed at the local level. At this time, we anticipate that the COVID-19 vaccination requirement would allow for students or employees to seek an exemption, as allowable under state and federal law, once the requirement is in place.

All CSU System policies, and related campus implementation details, are under development.

NEXT STEPS

At CSU Pueblo, our COVID-19 Response and Planning Team will coordinate operations with campus leadership teams. We will work with numerous stakeholders and campus operational experts to create an implementation plan that works for our constituents. In the meantime, as questions arise for you, your teams, or your students, please email these to covid@csupueblo.edu, where we will begin compiling a comprehensive list of our collective campus concerns and operational considerations. We will update you as more information becomes available.

VACCINATIONS

Though many details are still unclear, our goal in sharing this information now is to give everyone, who has not yet been vaccinated, adequate time to plan prior to the start of the fall semester.

In an effort to ensure the vaccine is readily available to our campus community, on May 6, our campus will host a second drive-thru and walk-up vaccination clinic, with support from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). First and second shots (Pfizer) will be available to ANY member of our campus community, age 16 and up (if you are 16-18 years old, you must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian). More information will be available online at www.csupueblo.edu in the coming days. Additional on-campus vaccination clinics are being planned for summer.

IN GRATITUDE

It has been an incredibly long year, and though we know we must remain vigilant and that the vaccine will not make the virus magically disappear, we also know that the vaccinations remain the most reliable method for protecting our people. And while our university leadership recognizes the complex histories that many communities of color have with vaccinations, we also know that, in Colorado, people of color – including many at our own institution – have been disproportionately impacted by the ravages of the virus. We must educate our people and do our part to protect our campus, our state, and, indeed, our world.

Stay safe, and be well.

Timothy Mottet



President, CSU Pueblo