CSU Fort Collins
COVID BOG Update

Nov. 13, 2020

COVID CASE INFORMATION

At this time, 962 students, faculty and staff have tested positive for COVID-19 since May. This number reflects both university testing sources and outside sources, such as county testing sites, pharmacies, and physicians.

Recognizing the growing number of COVID-19 cases locally and nationally, the CSU Pandemic Preparedness Team is in daily conversations with Larimer County health department experts and key CSU offices to assess multiple data points, including case numbers associated with CSU, geographic locations of positive cases, information about community behavior and adherence to public health guidelines.

Of students who live in University housing, 80 are in isolation in an assigned housing space, a hotel contracted by the university, or at home because they have tested positive. Fourteen are in quarantine in an assigned housing space, a hotel or at home as close contacts.

COVID TESTING

The university continues to use saliva screening as a first step to determine if a follow-up nasal swab is needed to test for COVID-19. This approach enables the university to identify more students, faculty and staff who may not have symptoms for follow-up nasal swab testing. To date, more than 24,688 students, faculty and staff have submitted a saliva sample.

To date, CSU has conducted more than 18,670 nasal swab tests on students, faculty and staff for COVID-19.

POLICY, ADHERENCE AND REPORTING

The vast majority of CSU students remain committed to practicing COVID-19 public health precautions, per a recent survey conducted by the Social Norming team. Overall, 91.3% of student respondents reported being “motivated to practice health behaviors to ensure the health of the CSU community,” the same percentage as in July. Read the SOURCE story that includes the full survey results here.

GENERAL/EMPLOYEE/FACULTY RESOURCES

At the end of last week, President McConnell announced to all employees a change to the week of November 23, which was scheduled to be a regular workweek Monday-Wednesday, with two university paid holidays on Thursday and Friday. Thanks to quick and collaborative work across the university, including the President’s Office, HR, the CFO’s office, and others, the President was able to offer most full-time university employees professional development days Monday-Wednesday, with some exceptions for essential personnel (who can take the days at a later time), grant-funded employees, and non-student hourly employees. Read the President’s message here.

COMMUNICATIONS

This Thursday, November 12, the CSU Pandemic Preparedness Team messaged the university community about safe travel during the upcoming holiday season (including Fall Break, which begins for students November 23). The messaging highlighted the need to follow public health precautions while traveling and not to travel if ill, symptomatic, or positive for COVID-19. Read the message here.

This week Institute for Learning and Teaching (TILT) also reminded all teachers (faculty, staff, and graduate students) that as they transition their in-person or hybrid courses to online in the coming weeks, they should be both mindful of ADA accommodation compliance for virtual courses and the extensive resources available via TILT to help them achieve that compliance.

RESEARCH

CSU’s work on COVID-19 in skilled nursing facilities continues to lead the nation as one of the first and longest efforts to protect the vulnerable in these facilities through frequent screening of the senior-care workforce. This effort is saving lives in the most vulnerable population in our state. The impact of this project has resulted in several major publications and in the recent extension of the project with an additional $3M in funding from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. This team is led by Drs. Nicole Earhardt, Greg Ebel, Sue VandeWoude, and Kristy Pabalonia. Read an earlier SOURCE story about this work here.

STUDENT LIFE

With the approach of Fall Break, the university has worked to put in place resources and support for all students who may be quarantined or isolated in university Residence Halls that week, including robust communication with Parents and Families and with individual students.

The Student Case Management team, which provides crisis prevention and intervention services for situations including mental health, behavioral, personal or family crisis, illness or injury, is currently working directly with an astonishing 1,312 students (including students living both on campus and off). These students receive daily contact from Student Case Management.