Please note that we will not have an update next Friday, per the professional development days that President McConnell has designated for all employees and the university holidays on Thursday and Friday. Happy Fall Break to all of you!

COVID CASE INFORMATION
At this time, 1,242 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, 100 are in isolation in an assigned housing space, a hotel contracted by the university, or at home because they have tested positive. Thirteen are in quarantine in an assigned housing space, a hotel, or at home as close contacts.

COVID TESTING
The CSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, which is processing an average of 1,000 COVID-19 tests from county residents and Colorado skilled nursing facilities every day, has to-date processed more than 60,000 tests, an extraordinary testament to the university’s partnership with Larimer County Public Health. Read the SOURCE story about the partnership here and watch the video here.

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 26,000 students, faculty, and staff have submitted a saliva sample.

To date, CSU has conducted more than 25,550 nasal swab tests on students, faculty, and staff for COVID-19.

POLICY, ADHERENCE AND REPORTING
No updates at this time.

GENERAL/EMPLOYEE/FACULTY RESOURCES
This week HR reminded employees of resources for those impacted by local public school systems decisions to return to virtual education starting this week or next, including the Families First Corona Response Act and the university’s Temporary Work Assignments.

COMMUNICATIONS
The university has continued to work to provide the clearest possible guidance to all members of our community who will be traveling for upcoming holidays during COVID. See the recently-developed infographic here and read Vice President Blanche Hughes’ message to students: 10 things to know about Fall Break and beyond, here.

RESEARCH
The results from a collaborative effort for COVID-19 vaccine development have been published as a pre-print in BioRXiv. The details in this manuscript pre-print describe the use of the SolaVAX technology platform developed at CSU for creating a COVID-19 vaccine and results from vaccine challenge studies conducted at CSU using animal models. Data from this study showed a positive response for antibody production, cellular immune response, and protection of vaccinated animals against infection with SARS-CoV-2 after direct exposure.

This research team includes seven CSU faculty members and more than 30 students and staff, spanning capabilities including veterinary medicine, immunology, pathology, chemistry, molecular biology, and virology. This work has been ongoing since late February, sponsored by the Office of the Vice President of Research. The program is now being funded by BARDA and the NIH/NIAID to progress the manufacturing of the vaccine from additional pre-clinical work required for an IND through human Phase I clinical studies. Read the article here.

STUDENT LIFE
One CSU student who went through being quarantined in his residence hall recently shared his story with SOURCE. Read the article here. And don’t worry – the student quarantined after being identified as a close contact, but he tested negative and is fine.