COVID CASE INFORMATION
At this time, 751 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.

Of students who live in University housing, 53 are in isolation in an assigned housing space, a hotel contracted by the university, or at home because they have tested positive. Sixteen are in quarantine in an assigned housing space, a hotel or at home as close contacts. These numbers are comprised of all quarantine and isolation spaces since the beginning of the semester.

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 14,650 students, faculty and staff have submitted a saliva sample.

To date, Colorado State University has conducted more than 24,260 nasal swab tests on students, faculty and staff for COVID-19.

POLICY, ADHERENCE AND REPORTING
The CSU Pandemic Preparedness Team messaged students this week regarding saliva screening (recommended but not mandated) and nasal swab testing (mandatory if indicated by the saliva screening), referencing this graphic version of the process.

GENERAL/EMPLOYEE/FACULTY RESOURCES
This week the university replaced the Daily Symptom Checker platform with the new COVID Reporter. The old platform required all employees and students to report whether or not they were experiencing COVID symptoms before coming to a campus location. The new platform is required only if an individual is experiencing symptoms and can also be used to report a positive COVID test off-site, a possible exposure, a concern about practices, or an observed violation of public health behaviors.

COMMUNICATIONS
This week, the Office of the Provost communicated a modified Spring 2021 semester schedule to the entire university community: Classes will begin as scheduled on January 19, but Spring Break will be delayed until the week of April 12-16 and classes will be virtual after that. The comprehensive messaging can be found here.

RESEARCH
CSU has secured a $500K National Institutes of Health grant to evaluate aerosol transmission of COVID in conjunction with UC Health and a company called Access Sensor Technologies (AST). This is exciting news not only because of the research opportunity itself, but because AST is a Spin Out company of the CSU Energy Institute. Spin Out companies are those that have sprouted from our work in energy innovation.

STUDENT LIFE
At this point in the semester every year, the university typically reminds all students that seeking help for mental health issues is nothing to be ashamed of or embarrassed about. This year, that messaging felt even more important. See the graphic posters on display in residence halls and elsewhere around campus here.