CSU Fort Collins COVID BOG update
December 4, 2020

COVID CASE INFORMATION
At this time, 1,603 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, five are in isolation in an assigned housing space, a hotel contracted by the university, or at home because they have tested positive. An additional five 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 30,000 students, faculty and staff have submitted a saliva sample.

To date, CSU has conducted more than 26,000 nasal swab tests on students, faculty and staff for COVID-19.

POLICY, ADHERENCE AND REPORTING
After consulting with CSU’s Faculty Council and the Pandemic Preparedness Team, the Provost’s Office has determined that the university will offer Fall 2020 undergraduate students the Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory S/U grading option instead of a traditional grade. “S” is available for letter grades of C or higher, whereas D and F grades would convert to U and do not garner credit.

The Provost’s Office also announced that the university will offer the late course withdrawal option for students for Fall 2020. A withdrawal is indicated by a W on student transcripts.

These temporary policies are intended to address some of the challenges facing students as the direct result of the ongoing pandemic.

GENERAL RESOURCES
The Pandemic Preparedness Team reminded the university community right after Fall Break of the availability of saliva screening for COVID. You can read the message here.

COMMUNICATIONS
Following Fall Break, the Pandemic Preparedness Team provided comprehensive clarification to the ways that the current Larimer County Public Health guidelines impact CSU campuses and community members, including how classrooms, labs, and office spaces were specifically impacted. Read the message here.

RESEARCH
The annual CSU Research Magazine is now live on the OVPR website. This edition of the magazine features the tremendous work our researchers have been doing to overcome a range of pandemic-related challenges that are reshaping our world.

University Distinguished Professor Ed Barbier in Economics recently wrote “Sustainability and development after COVID-19”. Barbier has identified three affordable policies that could yield immediate financial progress for developing countries seeking to financially recover from COVID-19: a fossil fuel subsidy swap to fund clean energy investments and dissemination of renewable energy in rural areas; reallocating irrigation subsidies to improve water supply, sanitation and wastewater infrastructure; and a tropical carbon tax, which is a levy on fossil fuels that funds natural climate solutions.

CSU English Assistant Professor Tim Amidon recently published “Visual Risk Literacy in Flatten-the-Curve COVID-19 Visualizations”. Amidon examines the COVID-19 pandemic and how the field of technical/professional communication might more strongly support visual risk literacy in future crises.

STUDENT LIFE
This past Tuesday, Dec. 1, was international Giving Tuesday, which CSU participated in for the seventh year in a row. In both a Presidential message (read that here) and other public messages, the university urged donations to Rams Against Hunger, a fund that supports students experiencing food insecurity. Read the story about the record-breaking success of this year’s CSU Giving Tuesday here.