

BAKERSFIELD

July 16, 2021

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Dear Presidents and Trustees:

DOMINGUEZ HILLS

EAST BAY

CHICO

FRESNO

FULLERTON

HUMBOLDT

LONG BEACH

LOS ANGELES

MARITIME ACADEMY

MONTEREY BAY

NORTHRIDGE

POMONA

SACRAMENTO

SAN BERNARDINO

SAN DIEGO

SAN FRANCISCO

SAN JOSÉ

SAN LUIS OBISPO

SAN MARCOS

SONOMA

STANISLAUS

On the heels of the University of California's announcement yesterday that it will no longer wait for full FDA approval before requiring its students, faculty and staff to be vaccinated against COVID-19, I am writing to reiterate our collective intention to stay the course by conditioning our vaccination requirement on full FDA approval of at least one COVID-19 vaccine, as we initially announced in April.

Over the past month, I have engaged in several robust discussions on this topic with our presidents and my council, weighing the myriad complexities of proceeding with a requirement under only an Emergency Use Authorization. And while we appreciate many of the reasons for pursuing that option, we ultimately landed on what we believe is the wisest and most feasible course of action, including:

- working closely with student, faculty and staff leaders and labor unions to inspire our campus communities to be vaccinated before the start of the fall term;
- facilitating vaccine clinics on campus and/or in partnership with local vaccine providers, implementing testing and face-covering requirements in the interim; and
- requiring vaccinations among students who will live on campus and/or participate in athletics or study-abroad programs.

I am heartened to learn of the vaccination rates reported by campuses that have surveyed their communities or have already begun the self-attestation process. For example, at CSUN, among the students who participated in a recent survey, 70 percent reported being fully vaccinated and an additional 15 percent indicated they would be by the fall term. And among faculty and staff at CSU Channel Islands, 85 percent reported being fully vaccinated and an additional 8 percent indicated they planned to be by the fall term. These are just two examples that indicate most students and employees clearly understand the importance of being vaccinated and are committed to the requirement (with its exemptions) that will be implemented as soon as one of the vaccines receives full FDA approval.

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I applaud the tireless efforts of our presidents and their teams in support of our vaccination policy. It is one that I am confident will establish a safe mechanism for repopulating our campuses while reducing the likelihood of transmission of the COVID-19 virus and providing a direct pathway to herd immunity on each of our campuses. And it will enable each campus to create the healthiest possible environment for our students, faculty and staff as we return to teaching, learning and working on our campuses.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Joseph I. Castro, Ph.D. M.P.P.

Chancellor

The California State University