University COVID-19 Safety Measures

Stanislaus State takes the health and safety of our campus community very seriously. With the spread of the coronavirus or “COVID-19,” a respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the University must remain vigilant in mitigating the outbreak. In order to be safe, maintain operations, and the continue the mission of the University, Safety & Risk Management with the assistance of Capitol Planning & Facilities Management have implemented, to the extent feasible and appropriate, safety measures and protocols across campus.

These actions are based on regulatory compliance from such agencies as OSHA, CalOSHA, Department of Industrial Relations, Center for Disease Control, California Department of Public Health, and Stanislaus and San Joaquin County Health agencies. They are based on information available at this time and is subject to change as further information is provided by these regulatory and guiding agencies. Stanislaus State may also amend these actions as the operational needs of the University develop and transform.

Partnerships with local public health departments are instrumental to ensure the effective response to reduce the spread of illness. Stanislaus State has partnered with San Joaquin County Public Health Services and Stanislaus County Health Services Agency. These partnerships have led to increased testing, contact tracing, and vaccination efforts on our campuses in the cities of Stockton and Turlock. To effectively communicate and manage the efforts of both the University, the county and the state, communication with these agencies has been vital and occurs daily.

Stanislaus State is asking everyone in our campus community to help with the prevention efforts while the University. In order to minimize the spread of COVID-19 on campus, everyone must play their part. As set forth below, the University has instituted various housekeeping, social distancing, and other best practices on campus.

While Stanislaus State has gone to great lengths to implement a wide range of control and preventative measures, it is imperative that everyone take their own health into consideration and assume a personal level of responsibility. OSHA and CDC continually recommend that everyone follow basic hygiene and etiquette procedures:

- Frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. When soap and water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60% alcohol
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Follow appropriate respiratory etiquette, which includes covering coughs and sneezes
- Wear a face covering
- Maintain at least 6’ of space between you and others

Daily Screening
The California Department of Public Health requires all Higher Education Institutions to conduct symptom screening of faculty, staff and students for potential COVID-19 symptoms before they enter campus. If someone has a temperature at or above 100°F or meets the symptom criteria, they must be
prohibited from entering the campus. A daily screening for all campus Faculty, Staff, Students and Guests/Vendors has been developed on campus.

Testing
Testing to rapidly detect and isolate infectious individuals can reduce the transmission of COVID-19. Testing at Stanislaus State has a dual purpose; to diagnose and to surveil for asymptomatic cases.

The University has partnered with a third-party company, HR Support Pros to provide free COVID-19 testing to students, faculty, staff and the general public at the University’s Turlock campus. Testing is free for all insurance types and for those without insurance. Testing is available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday, on campus. A PCR nasal swab test is available at no cost for all insurance types and for those without insurance. Drive-thru testing is available to everyone. However, arrangements have been made to serve Stanislaus State faculty, staff and students at a specific walk-up site in the far east section of Lot 11.

A campus COVID-19 Testing Protocol was developed by the campus Infectious Disease Response Team. The purpose of this protocol is to establish the process for testing, sequestering and repeat testing for COVID-19. The protocol will identify the processes for members for the campus community to access testing, and what individuals should do following test results. This protocol is based on evolving conditions and will be updated as new guidance or regulations are presented.

Wastewater Testing
Targeted wastewater surveillance at facilities, institutions, and high-density critical infrastructure workplaces has been proposed as a complementary method for screening of COVID-19. To date, targeted wastewater surveillance efforts have primarily focused on institutions of higher education, correctional facilities, and workplaces like food processing facilities. Targeted surveillance entails sampling at locations in the wastewater network, such as manholes outside buildings, that receive wastewater inputs from only the targeted population.

Targeted wastewater surveillance should complement, but not replace, case surveillance approaches in accordance with state, tribal, local, and territorial (STLT) laws and regulations.

- To date, there are few data on the effectiveness of targeted wastewater surveillance to inform public health action or institutional operations.
- The minimum number of infected individuals that can be reliably detected through wastewater testing is not known.
- SARS-CoV-2 wastewater concentrations can be more variable when wastewater travel time is short and fecal load is low (e.g., sampling where waste leaves a building), potentially making it more difficult to understand COVID-19 trends in a targeted area.
- Environmental laboratory capacity may be limited due to competing demand for treatment plant level wastewater testing for community surveillance.
- Sampling a building wastewater stream may require modifications for waste stream access.
- Non-human industrial or facility waste outputs may interfere with detection of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater.
At this time, it is not feasible for Stanislaus State to implement wastewater surveillance and believe that our current surveillance testing protocol for a campus our size reaches a similar goal.

To date, there has been no on campus transmission of COVID-19. All positive cases identified among employees and students have been the direct result of social gatherings or close contact with friends and family members outside of the campus purview.

COVID-19 Response Team
A campus COVID-19 team was created early on in the pandemic to manage the COVID-19 response efforts. The team responds to reports of positive COVID-19 cases, addresses cleaning issues, campus communication and public health notification.

COVID Response Coordinators (CRC)
The campus has COVID Response Coordinators who conduct contact investigations for reported cases on and off campus. The CRC’s are responsible for notifying close contacts, labor representatives, public health, and the campus community for COVID cases. They are also responsible for reporting COVID related cases to the Chancellor’s Office for data collection. Exposure mitigation guidance for the campus can be found online.

COVID-19 Reporting
Individuals on campus who are notified they are a close contact of a positive case or have tested positive for COVID-19 are instructed to report to their supervisor, then report on the campus COVID Reporting tool. Once reported a CRC will contact the individual and investigate to determine notifications, close contacts, cleaning, and reporting to public health. The CRC will provide guidance to the individual regarding symptoms, testing, and self-isolation. The CRC will also contact the campus Leaves and Benefits Specialist to provide follow up for sick leave programs that may apply to the individual.

Workplace Controls
Safety & Risk Management uses a framework called the “hierarchy of controls” to select ways of controlling workplace hazards. During the COVID-19 outbreak, when it may not be possible to eliminate the hazard, the most effective measures are engineering controls, administrative controls, and Safe Work Practices/Personal Protective Equipment.

In addition to workplace controls CDC guidance provides employers and workers with recommended COVID-19 infection prevention strategies to implement.

Following are the various types of controls that have been implemented and established on campus. As the response to COVID-19 develops, these control measures will be updated to reflect any changes.

Engineering Controls
Building Ventilation, Indoor Air Quality, and Domestic Water Safety
In response to the COVID-19 pandemic Facilities Services has taken the following actions in order to ensure proper building ventilation, indoor air quality and domestic water safety. These actions were in accordance with guidance received from the Chancellor’s office.
• Program building HVAC controls to automatically flush buildings with fresh outdoor air for a minimum of 1 hour prior to occupancy. In times of temperature extremes, the flushing period is adjusted as necessary to allow buildings to maintain temperature.
• Install MERV 13 high-efficiency filter in building air handlers to enhance indoor air quality
• Check and ensure fume hoods in all the labs are operating properly.
• Where available set CO2 sensors to 800 ppm to increase building ventilation during occupied periods.
• Ensure all exhaust fans are operating as designed.
• Set HVAC economizers to 25% outdoor air in all buildings to increase fresh air intake during occupancy.
• Ensure airflow sensors and temperature alarms are functioning properly.
• Flush all building domestic water systems to ensure water quality.
• Maintain all heating/cooling water loops circulating and at set point temperatures to prevent stagnation of water.
• Increase chemical treatment of all hot & cold loops as well as cooling towers to ensure against any water-borne contamination.
• Installed water fill stations and took drinking fountains out of service.
• Adjust HVAC control schedules to accommodate fall class schedules and building occupancy.

Disinfection and Cleaning Protocol for COVID-19
Over the last year, the custodial department has taken additional measures to help combat COVID-19 (Coronavirus). It is important that highly touched surfaces are addressed. In addition to routine tasks, Custodial staff is providing additional disinfecting of the following highly touched surfaces:

• Door handles
• Hand railings
• Elevator call buttons
• Light switches
• Dispensers
• Classroom desks
• Drinking fountains

Also, ensuring hand soap and hand sanitizer dispensers are full at all times.

Disinfecting/Foggers/Blowers
The University has purchased ten (10) foggers/blowers to be used to combat viruses, such as COVID-19. The addition of these devices to our tool bag has helped the department become more efficient in covering spaces such as classrooms quicker, frequently, and thoroughly.
Disinfecting Wipes
The University has moved forward with the purchase and installation of wall mounted high capacity disinfecting wipes. Specific locations will be identified to install these dispensers (primarily will be classrooms/labs).

Restrooms, Lounge and Study & Common Spaces
SRM continues to collaborate with Capital Planning & Facilities Management to eliminate or reduce campus spaces in accordance with social distancing guidance provided by CDPH and CalOSHA. These spaces include but are not limited to restrooms, lounge and study spaces and common areas such as conference rooms, and eating areas.

During the evaluation process items identified have included reducing restroom sinks, taking hand air dryers out of service, placing seating out of service and eliminating lounge spaces. Signage has been placed on conference rooms and common areas identifying reduced capacity.

Hand Sanitizer Stations
There have been 78 hand sanitizer dispensers installed across campus. Follow this link for a detailed floor plan and a campus map of all hand sanitizer locations. Locations of these dispensers are primarily in public and academic spaces (hallways, lobbies, and classrooms).

Barriers
As with most of campus, SRM has been evaluating areas on campus that would need additional prevention controls. Areas that have continuous contact with customers or clients may need the installation of barriers when social distancing is not feasible. At fixed locations where it is not possible to maintain the physical distancing requirement as all times, barriers will be installed to effectively reduce aerosol transmission between the employee and other persons. Such areas include but are not limited to,cashiers, enrollment services, library circulation, and OIT help desk. Department risk assessments aide SRM in making the determination for installation of permanent or portable temporary barriers.

Administrative Controls
Training
Training prepares workers to identify hazards, monitor hazard exposure, and safe procedures for working around the hazard. Additionally, employees should know how to protect themselves and their co-workers.

Cal/OSHA regulations require that all employees complete COVID-19 training prior to returning to on campus work. In order to comply with these regulations, the CSU's "Returning to Work During COVID-19" training was assigned to all Stan State faculty, staff, and student employees on August 19, 2020. Employees must complete the course within 30 days of the date it was assigned. We ask that employees currently working on campus complete the training at the earliest opportunity.

Communication
SRM has been, and will continue to, inform the campus community as soon as information is available regarding safety policies, testing availability, vaccination eligibility and locations, and training related to
COVID-19 hazards, risk reduction, and campus prevention plans. Communications to the campus community will be made utilizing various methods such as direct email, social media outlets, campus news, and the Emergency Notification System. A listing of emails notifying the campus community of present exposures, emergent changes, and planning can be found online.

Signage
Clear and readable signage is an administrative tool for communication and control of hazards at workplaces. Signage for COVID-19 has been placed to communicate social distancing protocols, face covering mandate, and reduced or eliminated occupancy and seating. Visual cues have been placed on entry doors to buildings, elevators, restrooms, floors, kitchens, seating areas, and conference rooms.

Risk Assessments
A process has been established to assist departments with returning certain activities to campus, including a template for evaluating the physical workspace and proposed in-person activities in order to design site-specific prevention protocols. These campus risk assessments will be evaluated through a process of risk and resource assessment to establish approval, prioritization, and sequence. Safety & Risk Management (S&RM) will be reviewing each department’s applicable risk assessment and prevention protocols before employees or students are permitted to return to campus. SRM will continually monitor and conduct periodic inspections to evaluate the need of additional hazard reduction controls and compliance with policies and procedures.

Transit
Due to the small size of our on-campus shuttle carts, social distancing protocols cannot be met eliminating the service until conditions change to allow for closer contact of individuals.

Motor vehicles including e-carts used in the administration of duties are limited to one individual and have strict cleaning protocols to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

Safe Work Practices and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Face Coverings
November 16, 2020 the California Department of Public Health issued guidance for face coverings. This updated guidance mandates that a face covering is required at all times when outside of the home, with some exceptions.

Face coverings must be worn (when feasible) by students, faculty, staff and visitors at all Stan State locations, both inside and outside, where they are likely to come into contact with others (not including while eating). Face coverings are not required in private spaces such as dorm rooms, single-occupancy offices, and the like.

Face coverings are available in the Campus COVID Supply Store and are free of charge.

Personal Protective Supplies
Additional protective supplies can be found at the Campus COVID Supply Store – face coverings, face shields, gloves, wipes, hand sanitizer and the like can be ordered through the supply store free of charge to the campus.