

May 3, 2021

Answered Questions at Town Hall on Repopulation

Q: Who will be responsible for mask wearing compliance in public spaces like the library or prospective student center? What happens when someone from the public refuses to mask?

A: There are a number of protocols currently in place to address non-compliance. If the existing protocols do not meet the needs of the unit, we recommend that the unit work with divisional or college leadership to address any specific needs and/or develop any special protocols.

Q: There are a lot of students, employees, and faculty that do not feel safe receiving any of the vaccines. What are the options for those individuals?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Is there a difference between FDA "approval" vs "emergency use authorization (eua)"?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Will the full repopulation schedule happen regardless whether there is a FDA approved vaccine (this is the requirement) or not? The vaccines are FDA approved for emergency use. Is Emergency Use Authorization the same as "FDA approved?"

A: No, Emergency Use Authorization is not the same as full approval. This requirement will become effective on each UC and CSU campus on the later of: (1) the start of the Fall 2021 term; or (2) when one (or more) COVID-19 vaccines receives full US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) approval.

Q: Which vaccine is available at the Goodall Center if a second dose is needed? Thank you

A: COVID testing is conducted at the Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center. COVID Vaccinations are available at the county-operated Viejas Arena site. They typically offer the Pfizer vaccine at that site.

Q: With the campus being "public" and open to non-SDSU visitors and guests, what steps will the university take to enhance safety on campus?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Does Viejas have both of the 2-dose vaccines? If a person has gotten the first shot, will the matching version be available?

A: It's the same vaccine for both your first and second shot. They currently offer the Pfizer vaccine and you are able to get both doses. If you have received a Moderna vaccine elsewhere for your first dose, there are many County-operated sites offering this vaccine.

Q: Will there be minimal distancing requirements or guidelines? How will faculty and staff be asked to manage one-on-one interactions with students? I.e., office hours, mentorship, tutoring, advising, counseling sessions, etc. Thank you...

A: We will follow public health guidelines. Based on current projections it is anticipated there will be no physical distancing requirements for the fall semester. All employees, students, and guests will be continue to be required to wear masks in all in-person interactions for the fall semester.

Q: Do we have an idea about the timeline in which the vaccine will be fully approved? Also, what is the timeframe in which students will be required to submit their vaccine documentation after fully approved?

A: It takes 6 months of data before companies seek full FDA approval--both Moderna and Pfizer are in process of applying and it is likely that approval will occur this summer

Q: Will classrooms on campus be ready with technology to allow instructors to teach in person and on Zoom simultaneously? Will something like a Swivel camera (that follows the movements of a teacher as they teach) be equipped in classrooms managed by ITS?

A: Yes, and we will be speaking about this during the "Looking Ahead" section.
<https://its.sdsu.edu/learning-spaces/connected-classrooms/>

Q: Will students who will not be coming to campus be required to submit immunization records?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: How certain are we that the FDA will fully approve the vaccines prior to fall?

A: The President addressed this live, but the Governor's Office and our system counsel have indicated to us that they expect this will occur early this summer.

Q: What is the immunization submission process for faculty?

A: We are currently awaiting system-wide guidance on this issue and we will share the process with faculty and staff once we receive it.

Q: Are the current vaccines effective against the B.1.617 variant?

A: We are still waiting on more data--the vaccines in India (Covishield and Covaxin) have showed efficacy against this 'India Strain' with people showing milder forms of infection even if they did get sick after vaccination.

Q: What's the plan to track vaccination status for faculty, staff, and other employees?

A: We are currently awaiting system-wide guidance on this issue and we will share the process with faculty and staff once we receive it.

Q: Will there be any social distancing in classrooms or will they be filled to room capacity?

A: We will follow public health guidelines. Based on current projections it is anticipated there will be no physical distancing requirements for the fall semester.

Q: Will the areas that were previously set to shut off ventilation (example classroom designated areas) also be on the 24/7/365 schedule? In particular areas that were initially designated instructional but are actually in office use.

A: Yes. All campus building ventilation systems are in a continuous operation mode (24/7/365) for all spaces.

Q: Will we have to wear masks when returning to campus? And will the students need to wear a mask in class?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: How do you determine that someone (faculty, staff, student) is "in compliance"? How do we know that our students are vaccinated when we meet them in the classroom?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: When is FDA approval of one or more vaccines anticipated?

A: It takes 6 months of data before companies seek full FDA approval--both Moderna and Pfizer are in process of applying and it is likely that approval will occur this summer

Q: I plan to teach my class in "Hyflex" format. Does this have to be mentioned in the class schedule or is it good enough if it is announced as F2F class

A: The best way to handle this would be to schedule 2 separate sections for the course, so some can register for it as online and others F2F

Q: There is much mention of faculty in these accommodations, what about staff?

A: This is a very important question, and thank you. This section is focused on instruction and academic affairs, but please know that more information is forthcoming for all our staff. Repopulation guidance is being worked on and will be refined through the labor process, and we will continue to share this month as we lead into summer.

Q: If International Students were unable to get the approved vaccines before getting to campus, and they often show up the same week that classes begin, what will the vaccination requirement process look like for them?

A: We are still working through some of the logistics, but we've already messaged international students about opportunities to arrive early for vaccination. If that's not feasible, they'll likely be a rigorous testing policy in place for them until they're fully vaccinated.

Q: Are the smile masks available to staff as well?

A: Of course! Available to faculty and staff.

Q: For large lecture courses, will it be possible to have voice amplification for students for when they ask questions, offer comments? Like the "Catchbox?"

A: We encourage faculty to repeat student questions via the PA system, and in the fall we will not be utilizing "Catchbox" microphones.

Q: Thanks, however the total student count is only 30, so no instructor for a second section will be hired. I'll figure it out. "Hyflex" is a specific type of instruction.

A: Yes, understood. The Registrar's Office can assist with scheduling based on whether you want to limit the course to 30 students (who have the choice of coming to campus or participating online) or a different arrangement (i.e., limit of 20 in person, 10 online)

Q: Where are these mask vending machines located?

A: Locations of the vending machines for PPE are on the 5th floor Math/Geo/Chem building and off access road on the south side of the Art building.

Q: Are the mask vending machines free, since the masks are required?

A: The masks in the vending machines are not free. There are a number of PPE items offered. That said, we will provide reusable masks to all employees for free.

Q: What are the guidelines for facial coverings for fall? Would full-face, clear shields be allowed? (Asking for a theatre performance classes).

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Sasha mentioned that faculty or staff members who have child care needs can apply for assistance. This support does not seem to be available this semester despite the passage of the CA bill. Apparently, only in the case of a child care center or school being closed down due to *COVID exposure on the premises* can paid leave be accessed. If the school is closed due to COVID (but not due to exposure) there is no paid leave. Is this a change? Or is the benefit Sasha mentioned in line with the "on the premises" policy?

A: Faculty and staff who have childcare or dependent care needs may request a special arrangement - this may include telework, alternative schedules, use of sick or vacation, or unpaid (full or partial) leaves of absence. Separate from these special arrangements, there are certain paid leave programs available to our faculty and staff relating to COVID. The paid leave programs are specific to certain events - such as a COVID exposure. For more information on leaves available, please contact Benefits Services at 619-594-1142.

Q: Can we get access to the slides (esp. on what to do if a student won't wear a mask) so we can share with colleagues?

A: Yes. Today's presentation will be made available on the Senate page, and cross-posted to the University's COVID-19, SDSU Flex, and State Up to Date pages. <https://www.sdsu.edu/flex>

Q: How will outside vendors and other visitors to the campus be handled regarding vaccination and facial covering policies?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: How do we get smile masks? What is the process?

A: Please work with Associate Deans, Deans, or AVPs to submit requests to Johnny Eaddy and me.

Q: What will happen when ventilation systems break down?

A: A work request will be submitted to Facilities Services via call or online and this will be priority for repair.

Q: Who do we write for access to the "smile masks"?

A: Please work with Associate Deans, Deans, or AVPs for submitting requests to Johnny Eaddy and me.

Q: Is there any projection how long masks will be required of faculty?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: How will access to the university spaces for non-SDSU personnel (i.e. prospective students, parents, general public, etc.) look?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Does that mean that faculty will be required to wear masks when providing lectures?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Can those staff that are fully vaccinated return to campus now?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Assuming that there will be transmission prevention requirements in place in the residence halls, will frats and sororities be encouraged to comply with the same?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: I have professor emeritus status and would like to continue limited art research. Will emeritus faculty be permitted on campus for research?

A: Yes. Please email dri-cov2@sdsu.edu and we'll help you with approval.

Q: Will a new section for the unit 3 faculty be offered this summer?

A: The Summer 2021 Flex-CDI is for new attendees as well as returning participants. Registration will be reopened tomorrow (Tuesday) at 8am for 24 hours only via the its.sdsu.edu/flex page if the first registration window was missed.

Q: What will policies look like for student organization events who hope to host events in person? Will there be a Student Life and Leadership training to inform student org advisors/officers?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Did the administration consult with CFA about repopulation? Many other CSU campuses are gradually repopulating with a spring 2022 target. Why didn't the administration choose a gradual repopulation plan as did other CSU campuses?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: How does the mask enforcement protocol work for front desks of student services where you cannot cancel the event/interaction if the person refuses to comply?

A: I would recommend that the office work with divisional leadership to develop a specific protocol that will meet the unit's needs. In addition, when a student refuses to comply with the mask requirement, the incident should be referred to Student Rights and Responsibilities to address the violation.

Q: Will the same technologies be available on the Imperial Valley campus?

A: ITS had a team in Brawley and Calexico in April installing "Connected Classroom" capability to more than a dozen (15) classrooms.

Q: Are these no-touch microphones for recording lectures or do they also amplify voices for the students present in the classroom?

A: The microphones are for recording and/or streaming the voice of the instructor.

Q: Can we access those connected classroom lessons without going thru the summer program?

A: Yes! Absolutely. ITS offers virtual trainings throughout the year. Please check the Smart Classroom Trainings page to see any upcoming trainings: <https://its.sdsu.edu/learning-spaces/trainings/>

Q: James, what is Zoom Ready vs Zoom & Mediasite Ready?

A: This page describes and differentiates the Connected Classrooms with definitions of these terms: Full listing of Classrooms including Zoom and Mediasite: <https://its.sdsu.edu/learning-spaces/connected-classrooms/> A full listing of classrooms can be found here: <https://its.sdsu.edu/docs/SmartClassroom.pdf>

Q: Can we make the Summer Flexible Course Design Institute available to our new faculty hires who are starting in August?

A: Yes, and we are working with the Office of Faculty Advancement to make arrangements!

Q: Where can we find the list of rooms that are Zoom ready?

A: <https://its.sdsu.edu/learning-spaces/connected-classrooms/>

Full listing of Classrooms including Zoom and Mediasite can be found here: <https://its.sdsu.edu/docs/SmartClassroom.pdf>

Q: Eyal, Do you have any peer-reviewed studies that show that vaccines in India (Covisheild and Covaxin) have showed efficacy against the triple-mutated Indian strain? Can you please share them. Thanks.

A: Right now the data sit with Public Health England and partners in India (I need to look up the lab but I think the data come from the manufacturers and Indian Council of Medical Research) but they have not released the data publicly yet--we only have their word

Q: Are the CARES and connects programs available to Graduate students and what is the webpage to learn more?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Our studios for performance arts classes are not “smart”, will HEERF funds be available install cameras, computers, etc.?

A: Please work with your dean’s office to make these types of requests.

Q: Will HEERF funding be available to train lab course TAs that have never been to campus to use equipment before? We envision at least a couple of additional weeks before the semester.

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Can those staff who are fully vaccinated return to their campus offices now?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Is there a connected classroom tutorial available?

A: You may self-enroll in our online Smart Classroom Training Course. This course covers our various types of classrooms, including our new Connected Classrooms, with how-to videos and job aids on operating the equipment: <https://sdsu.instructure.com/enroll/A6HPRB>

Q: Who will be subject to COVID testing and how often?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: If an instructor needs to zoom in students for health reasons, their being overseas, etc., that the instructor will be assigned a student asst to run the zoom operations during classes?

A: Faculty will work with their college dean’s office to make requests for student assistant support.

Q: Is there updated data on the efficacy of the J&J vaccine.

A: The data are still those supporting the EUA and available here: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-legal-regulatory-and-policy-framework/janssen-covid-19-vaccine->

[frequently-asked-questions](#) That's 66% efficacy BUT 85% effective in preventing severe disease, and complete protection against hospitalization and death by day 28

Q: When students are vaccinated, will they still need to be Covid tested every two weeks like now?

A: Thank you for this question. Beginning with the summer term, students who are fully vaccinated can be exempted from this testing requirement.

Q: How do we enforce international students to get the vaccination that we require/approve? Do they get vaccinated again here?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Are there allowances or exceptions made to the policies for minors (those under 16) who are involved in on-campus activities?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: What is the policy with regard to international students who might have received a COVID vaccine that is not approved by the U.S.? We received a question from a returning student from China who received a vaccine in China and was wondering about the vaccine requirement at SDSU.

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Will there be a protocol for students or other individuals entering a classroom or an office? Or will we assume that everyone is vaccinated and/or it's fine as long as they are wearing a mask?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Why not have faculty and staff upload their vaccination cards too? Won't that give you a better idea of how many in our community are vaccinated?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Are the no physical distancing guidelines for Fall 2021 due to the vaccination requirement to be on campus?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Right now, only partial vaccination is required - why not full vaccination for the fall? And can we ask for proof or will Health services do that?

A: Full vaccination is the language of the requirement, not partial. And SHS has a confidential health portal, and individual faculty and staff should not ask for proof of vaccination.

Q: When and how individual staff be informed about when exactly they are required to be back on campus.

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Is there no distancing requirement in classes?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: What if you are a staff member required to come to campus to help faculty with their office moves and you still haven't been vaccinated. Is that following policy?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Connected classroom is a great idea so we can include IVC students as well - how will that square with faculty work load?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: For the "connected classroom" per James Frazee that enables students to not come to class, how will quizzes and exams be handled?

A: Assessment via Canvas tools is an option. Again, while encouraged, utilization of Connected Classrooms is voluntary.

Q: Is SDSU working on a long term telework agreement to provide flexibility for staff as the campus repopulates?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Is there a requirement for face covering for faculty? A specific mask, for example?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Are international students allowed to travel to the U.S. without being vaccinated at the time of traveling?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Will exemptions be given to students/staff that do not have a medical issue or religious belief, but feel strongly opposed to being vaccinated for Covid 19?

A: We anticipate that the vaccination exemptions will be limited to exemptions for medical issues and/or religious beliefs. We are still awaiting system wide guidance but hope to have more information within the next few weeks.

Q: How can we be certain that our building/classroom/offices have adequate ventilation? (e.g., Hepner Hall is one of the older buildings).

A: Our Facilities Services staff have been working closely with the Environmental Health & Safety to ensure our HVAC systems are working properly. We will continue to do so throughout the summer with a regular monitoring program.

Q: The NYT is reporting that the US is unlikely to reach herd immunity. Given that the vaccines only last a year and by the time we reach fall repopulation, it will have been 7 or so months since most of us have been eligible. What is the University's plan to ensure that all staff are getting vaccinated year over year, since we will not likely reach herd immunity?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: And can we as instructors opt to zoom teach if WE are having symptoms or otherwise can't be there to teach in person on a given day?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Question for a faculty member: If an OERC accommodation is requested and granted, can faculty request to teach a synchronous online course, or will the only option be online asynchronous?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: In the fall, will there be different guidelines for on-campus student employees? Or will they be treated the same as staff?

A: Generally, student employees are treated the same as staff and, in the workplace, would be expected to follow the same guidelines that we have for staff/faculty. However, let me know if you have a specific issue in mind?

Q: In the before times, we ran open lab sessions in art studios and lab spaces to facilitate students getting work done using specialized equipment. Will classrooms/labs be available to students outside of class time in the fall?

A: Yes, as agreed upon by the controlling department, classrooms and labs can be made available for use of specialized equipment outside of class times

Q: Now that we have shown that we can get our work done from home, will campus allow for a greater number of staff to make their Telework arrangements permanent?

A: There are ongoing negotiations with the unions on telework agreements. More to come on options when we have it.

Q: Will physical distancing be different for employees than it is for classrooms? Cal-OSHA will still likely have 6ft guidance for prevention for employees.

A: We will follow public health guidelines. Based on current projections it is anticipated there will be no physical distancing requirements for the fall semester.

Q: In terms of mask requirements, are there any standards as to a minimum mask effectiveness? For example, I see people with very sheer one layer nylon face coverings which are not very protective. Is any mask OK? Thanks for all your hard work to get our campus open.

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Is there a physical distancing plan for large (100+ student) courses?

A: We will follow public health guidelines. Based on current projections it is anticipated there will be no physical distancing requirements for the fall semester.

Q: Would our faculty and students be allowed participate in events that do not have the same requirements that we do (especially in states that have low levels of vaccination)?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Will there be any physical distancing requirements on campus and in classrooms will be in place?

A: We will follow public health guidelines. Based on current projections it is anticipated there will be no physical distancing requirements for the fall semester.

Q: If there are no physical distance requirements in the fall, and students and other individuals are allowed to be exempt from vaccines, how will we actually know if we are safe in our classrooms? (Especially when we teach large (80+ students) classes...Will exempt individuals provide recent test results when they enter campus or our classrooms each day?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Could you please speak to travel restrictions, and whether/when faculty, staff, and students might be able to travel again? We have been asked by several folks in CAL. Thank you!

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: In the before times, we ran open lab sessions in art studios and lab spaces to facilitate students getting work done using specialized equipment. Will classrooms/labs be available to students outside of class time in the fall?

A: Please work through your dean's office to coordinate these requests in college/school/dept. controlled spaces, and the Registrar for the centrally-scheduled classroom spaces.

Also, approvals for class activities are different than for research activities.

Q: When can staff/faculty begin traveling again as part of university business?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: I had assumed students will not be able to register for fall without being vaccinated, but since the EUA won't be replaced by full approval til summer (or who knows when), they will clearly register pre full approval, and their names will be on instructors' class rosters. How are instructors to know which students who show up for class the first day are vaccinated or not? Honor system?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Will vaccination be required for access to campus venues such as the Aztec Recreation Center, and Aqualplex? Sorry if this question has already been asked.

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: What will the policy be with respect to this population?

A: Currently the recommended best practice is regular testing for those under 16, rather than vaccination.

Q: I have 2 children, what if one of my children gets Covid-19, what would be the protocol for how long we should not come back to work, because our schools are requiring that our children stay out of school for 14 days?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: Keep in mind the ARC, Aquaplex has members that are not part of the campus staff.

A: Thank you for acknowledging this. The leadership for Aztec Recreation has established health and safety protocols for the use of these spaces -- they are currently open -- they will assess and update these protocols as the additional guidance and requirements are put in place.

Q: Can HEERF funds for added sections be used for Spring 2022 and summer 2022?

A: This question has been answered live. See recording.

Q: If my questions have not been answered here, who do I contact to get an answer?

A: Senate share the questions which remain unanswered with the panelists for response. We will post those responses along with the Q&A's that were answers on the Senate site, FAQs as appropriate, on the Flex site, or can be followed up with you individually after.

Q: Follow up to the ARC/Aquaplex question. What about San Diego community members (not students/staff faculty) who use these facilities? Will proof of vaccination be required?

A: The leadership team will update their protocols for community members.

Q: Does Jessica's answer about sick kids also apply to SDSURF employees?

A: Generally, yes, but I would recommend that you speak with RF HR regarding specific protocols. In addition, I will let RF HR know that this question came up so that they can communicate specifics to their employees.