January 14, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

At the direction of Provost Mary Pedersen, the Teaching Continuity and Recovery Team is building support strategies for the potential impacts of Omicron during the Spring 2022 semester, including our start next week. As we move through the temporary Omicron surge (and throughout the semester), we will be identifying needs and resources for colleges, departments and instructors.

Flexibility is especially important for those who test positive, are immunocompromised, care for a loved one who needs to isolate or quarantine, or have young children and who are unable to attend school due to school staffing issues. We are tapping resources and expertise across the university to put the support options in place.

**Academic FAQs for Instructors**

Attached you will find a Spring 2022 Academic FAQ document for faculty, GTAs and staff who teach, to help provide guidance and information in response to potential impacts from the Omicron variant on instructor and student absenteeism. The FAQs document additionally provides a list of various resources for faculty, including mental health resources. These FAQs also are posted online: [https://covid.colostate.edu/kb/resources-for-faculty-and-instructors/](https://covid.colostate.edu/kb/resources-for-faculty-and-instructors/).

In this document you will find:

| University Health Protocols & Mandates (p. 1) |
| Faculty Remote Teaching/Telework Requests: Temporary vs. Semester-Long (pgs. 2-3) |
| Student Remote Learning Requests, Class Absenteeism (pgs. 4-5) |
| Student Missed Coursework for Vaccination/Screening Non-Compliance (p. 5) |
| Links to Other Faculty Resources (p. 6) |

**Please inform your students on the first day of classes of your plan to communicate with them concerning potential class meeting shifts, and encourage them to check those platforms regularly (e.g., CSU email, Canvas or other). Also, please encourage them to notify you immediately if they have a need to miss class(es).**

Based on what we have seen with Omicron nationally and globally and predictive modeling, we anticipate a surge in positive cases the first few days of the semester, and then a decline in the rate of new cases. CSU has prepared for scenarios of low-to-significant absenteeism among faculty, GTAs, staff, and students. Providing flexibility, support and resources for our community will be key to minimizing the impact. We wish you the very best for this spring semester, and we are working on your behalf.

**On Behalf of the Teaching Continuity and Recovery Team**

Sincerely,
Ben Withers

*Benjamin C. Withers, Ph.D.*
Professor and Dean, College of Liberal Arts
Colorado State University