

Dear Campus Community,

The promise of a vaccine against COVID-19 is now a reality. As supply to California grows, educators — including university staff and faculty — are being prioritized to receive it, including in San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

I urge you to consider scheduling an appointment to become vaccinated. It is simply the surest, swiftest way each of us can not only safeguard our own health and that of others — but also get us back where we long to be: on the beautiful Cal State San Bernardino campus.

These are some of the reasons why I chose to receive the first dose of the vaccine recently and will receive the second dose shortly. But no one of us can do it alone. It will take us acting in concert to build greater immunity as a community before our daily lives return to normalcy.

Until then, I encourage each of us to take the steps we can and continue safety practices when outside our homes, including:

- wearing face coverings,
- maintaining physical distance,
- cleaning hands often and
- scheduling a vaccination appointment!

COVID-19 immunization appointment information for all counties in California can be found at the following [link](#). A more complete list of vaccination locations in San Bernardino County can be found at the following [link](#). In Riverside County, please follow this [link](#).

Patience may be required to make an appointment. Limited supplies and high demand mean public health officials must continue to prioritize front line workers, such as health care professionals, and those over 65.

Please do not be swayed by misinformation and rumors. The COVID-19 vaccines available have met rigorous scientific standards and have been proven effective. As for side effects that may be worrisome to some, I can tell you, I have experienced minimal discomfort or side effects. It is also important to understand that COVID-19 cannot be contracted from being immunized and adverse reactions are extremely rare, according to a recent study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As the vaccine becomes available for younger age groups, I also urge our students to be vaccinated. Youth and prior good health have misled some young people into believing they are not susceptible. Sadly, 22% of recorded cases have been contracted by those 18 to 29,

the highest percentage for any age group. It's a statistic that reinforces the importance of each of us committing to a vaccination plan when it is our turn. For details about when and how to get vaccinated, consult trusted sources such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, your health care provider and county Departments of Public Health. And check the CSUSB COVID-19 website for regular updates affecting campus.

I wish you continued health and wellness.

Sincerely,

**Tomás D. Morales**

President