



A Message from *President Noelle E. Cockett*

Dear Faculty and Staff,

Welcome to a new year and new semester at Utah State University! I hope you have had a joyful and restful holiday season.

Thanks to the efforts of students and employees, along with safety procedures USU had in place, we enjoyed a successful fall semester with limited spread of COVID-19 at our campuses and locations. However, as new virus variants emerge, we need to continue these efforts to minimize the risk of illness and prevent disruptions of our university services. Here's how you can help:

Get vaccinated or boosted at an [upcoming campus clinic or local provider](#). If you are vaccinated, [upload your proof of vaccination](#) or add your booster information to AggieHealth to help with university case containment efforts.

Stay home if you're sick, and [get tested for COVID-19](#). Also, [fill out USU's COVID-19 questionnaire](#) if you have symptoms, have a positive test result, or have been exposed.

Wear a mask indoors. Even if you are vaccinated, masks can help prevent spread of the virus. The CDC recommends [upgrading your masks](#) for better protection.

Reduced Quarantine and Isolation Times

USU has updated its case containment procedures for people who have been exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 or tested positive. In most cases, the USU case containment team will instruct you to end isolation or quarantine after five days (rather than the previous 10 days). Conditions for ending the isolation or quarantine period are that you have no symptoms of illness and you agree to wear a mask around others for an additional five days. Guidelines for [quarantine](#) and [isolation](#) can be found on the USU website.

USU continues to offer [COVID-19 paid leave](#) for employees who are required to quarantine or isolate. COVID-19 paid leave can also be used if you need to take time off to be tested, get vaccinated, or are not well due to receiving a vaccination.

The university continues to monitor results from wastewater testing on our campuses, and USU's strong case containment and classroom exposure protocols remain in place. These combined efforts are designed to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and keep our Aggie family as healthy as possible. I thank you for your continued commitment and look forward to another successful semester.