



**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, INC.
CAL STATE SAN MARCOS**

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 4, 2020
To: Students of California State University San Marcos
From: Michael Garrett, President & CEO
Re: ASI Cougar Pantry Update

In order to be as transparent as possible, I am writing to inform you that a member of the ASI team has tested positive for COVID-19. The team member had worked at a recent ASI Cougar Pantry distribution. Upon receiving the positive test result, the individual has begun self-isolation and will not be physically returning to campus for the remainder of the semester. Contact tracing indicates that exposure took place off campus and is unrelated to Cal State San Marcos events or operations. Due to privacy rights and the care and consideration of our team members, we are unable to provide any identifying information.

As COVID-19 cases in San Diego County and California continue to rise, it is with an overabundance of caution that we in ASI have made the difficult decision to cancel the remaining distributions this semester. We did not make this decision lightly as we know the ASI Cougar Pantry is a vital resource for so many of our students.

We follow University and California guidelines at ASI Cougar Pantry distributions including wearing mandatory facial coverings, maintaining appropriate physical distance, placing groceries directly in trunks and back seats of vehicles, and keeping operations outdoors. Additionally, COVID-19 infection through surface contact has not been shown to be a notable source of spread, particularly when handling porous materials and food. Because of this, the risk of transmission to those that have attended any of the recent food distributions is exceedingly low.

If you have not been notified by CSUSM directly that you have been in close contact with someone who has, or is suspected of having, COVID-19 there are no special precautions that you need to take at this time.

I want to remind you that following resources are available:

- [ASI Student Emergency Fund](#): Provides compassionate assistance to students who encounter unforeseen financial emergencies or catastrophic events that disrupt their progress towards a degree.
- [ASI Cougar Pantry Resources Website](#): Provides a list of basic needs resources both on and off campus.
- [San Diego County Coronavirus Testing on Campus](#): Open to the public seven days a week, at the Viasat Engineering Pavilion, at 333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Road, San Marcos.

This last year has been challenging for everyone. I believe we must prioritize student safety and well-being. We are all in this together as a campus, as a community, and always as a Cougar family.

In gratitude,

Michael Garrett
President and CEO of the Associated Students, Inc. of CSUSM

CC: Dylan Crivello, Chair & Chief of Staff
Andrew Gamboa, Vice President of Student & University Affairs
Tim Pelayo, Executive Vice President
Annie Macias, ASI Executive Director
Lorena Checa, Vice President of Student Affairs