



Chancellor Dr Joseph Castro, Vice Chancellors Nazario and Checel, and Board of Trustees
California State University, Office of the Chancellor
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach CA 90802

January 12, 2022

Dear CSU Chancellor Castro, Vice Chancellor Nazario, and Associate Vice Chancellor Christina Checel,
and CSU Board of Trustees,

As we head into the third year of the COVID pandemic, and a severe surge in COVID-19 cases, the coalition of CSU unions urges to act quickly to extend and expand critical protections to its workers.

Specifically, we ask you to provide COVID-19 Paid Leave as it did in March 2020, extend the Expanded COVID-related Leave program through at least the end of 2022, and restore sick, vacation, PTO or any other benefit time retroactive to January 1, 2021 and instead use COVID-19-related paid sick leave.

California is facing the newly-identified Omicron variant, with a seven-day average at 125 confirmed cases per 100,000 residents resulting in daily case rates higher than they have ever been. The positivity rate also set another record with the seven-day average over 22% now. Many adults are still to receive a booster shot. All of these factors clearly demonstrate that COVID-related paid leave remains a necessary tool to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Expanded COVID-related Leave for many CSU employees expired on December 31st, 2021. The pandemic has been with us for two years and many workers have exhausted the previously provided COVID-19 leave or were never provided paid leave because they were hired after December 31st. The COVID leave programs have proven invaluable and remain important tools in maintaining stability and controlling the negative impacts of COVID-19. While the rollout of vaccines gives us reason for optimism, safety measures remain necessary to maintain the safety of workers and students in order to mitigate the negative impact of the virus, including ensuring that sick workers are not vectors for spreading the virus at work. Therefore, CSU workers still have an urgent need to have access to paid leave for coronavirus-related reasons.

Signed,

**APC
CFA
CSUEU, CSEA SEIU Local 2579
Teamsters 2010
UAPD
UAW 4123**