I don't care if I have to go to school in a hazmat suit. As long as I can go to class in person, I will do it.

Julius Morillos
Radio, TV and Film junior

SJSU COVID-19 vaccination policy:

Vaccination deadlines:
- All staff, faculty and students need to be fully vaccinated by Sept. 30.
- The last day to get the Moderna vaccine first dose is Aug. 19 in order to be fully vaccinated by the deadline.
- The first Pfizer dose must be done by Aug. 26 and the single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine must be completed by Sept. 16.

Testing policies:
- Unvaccinated students, faculty, staff, auxiliary employees, volunteers and other unpaid appointments who access SJSU facilities must subject to mandatory COVID-19 testing.
- The testing is on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Event Center Arena, which is across from the wellness center, for the first 2 weeks of classes starting Aug. 23.

Remaining unvaccinated:
- If students, faculty or staff remain unvaccinated without exemption, in-person courses will be dropped and access to SJSU campus facilities will be lost on Oct. 1.
- Unvaccinated university community members will also be limited in co-curricular experiences including the Student Recreation and Aquatic Center, university sporting events and course field trips.

Students discuss vaccination policy:

S
an Jose State President Mary Papazian first announced that university students, faculty and staff will be required to be fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus by Sept. 30 in a July 27 university-wide email. Papazian said the immunization mandate follows the California State University (CSU) COVID-19 immunization deadline.

Mishaludeen said campus members who present symptoms, which include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, headache or new loss of taste or smell, must get tested at the SJSU Student Wellness Center.

Patrick Day, SJSU vice president of student affairs, said vaccination is crucial in addressing the COVID-19 Delta variant, which threatens campus return. The Delta variant, which was first identified in India in December 2020, is more than twice as contagious as the original COVID-19 strain first identified in Wuhan, China, according to an Aug. 6 Center of Disease Control and Prevention report.
Students must wear masks indoors regardless of vaccination status or they’ll be asked to leave the building. Unvaccinated students are required to wear masks outdoors when maintaining six-feet distance from other individuals isn’t possible.

The Santa Clara County public health website says fully vaccinated individuals must stop engaging in-person and report testing, quarantine for two weeks after exposure. Papazian said.

“[This is] part of the reason why we are focused particularly on campus vaccination, trying to mitigate some of the unknown,” Day said.

Transfer student and Spanish junior Verena Martinez said while she opted for her first semester on campus, the Delta variant is “in a good direction.

“We’re going into flu season so I’m not too sure how that’s gonna pan out,” Martinez said. “It doesn’t seem like the way things are going [are] in a good direction.”

Papazian stated a Wednesday Presidential Directive that students who’ve been exposed to or tested positive for the COVID-19 virus must stop engaging in person and report infection in the university’s case report form.

“Failure to adhere to quarantine or testing may result in intern suspension to protect the health and safety of the SJU community.” Papazian said.

“The campus community will be required to carry their tower cards as a security and sanitization protocol and it will serve as a key to enter any academic building, according to the SJU Health Advisories website.”

However, the SIAK and MLK Library will require a tower card upon entry and a completed COVID-19 self-assessment via QR Codes located at the main entrances.

Martinez said she supports the mask requirement for the university to keep feeling safe on campus.

“Personally felt more comfortable wearing a mask throughout this whole time,” Martinez said. “New, like regardles of your vaccination status, it is a requirement, but it does [put me] more at ease.”

While eating and drinking are prohibited in the SIAK and MLK Library, Friedolage said Assertive inside the Student Union will be open and indoor-dining will be available at full capacity.

“[The adjusted HVAC systems] allow us to push out whatever people have breathed out of the building and bring fresh air into the building,” Friedolage said. “That provides a safer environment given that [COVID-19] spreads through aerosols.”

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As of Tuesday, there have been 2,408 COVID-19 cases in Santa Clara County in the past two weeks and the Delta variant is responsible for more than half, according to the Los Angeles Times.

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University community members need their tower cards to access all academic buildings doors. In-person classes are located in academic buildings.

The weeks before the Sept. 30 SJU vaccination requirement deadline is a grace period when the tower card policy won’t be as strictly implemented.

Eateries inside the Student Union will be open and indoor-dining will be available at full capacity.

Courses will be 40% in person, 15% in hybrid format and the rest will be online.

In-person classes will be held at full capacity.
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Your guide to campus favorites

By Jovanna Olivares

Sonia’s Sandwiches:
A hidden gem with incredibly affordable options to Sonia’s Kitchen, located right down the street from campus on 8th and Williams streets, in front of Spartan Market. The owner Sonia and her friendly smile are as sweet you won’t even need to order dessert. Sonia and her son Raymond work side-by-side to bring you a sunny and flavorful menu in a brown paper bag that takes you back to your childhood memories.

Hot and Spicy shrimp Pho (top left), House of Bagels (top right), chef Raymond and Sonia (bottom middle) and SoFa Market (bottom left)

The kind mother-and-son duo have been operating this tiny, but mighty family-owned sandwich joint since 1981. The kind mother and son duo have been operating this tiny, but mighty family-owned sandwich joint since 1981.

SoFa Market:
SoFa Market offers a genuine variety of eateries in a single location on South First Street, a walkable distance from campus. It’s an ideal place to go when you’re in a large group of people and everyone’s craving something different. Whether it’s a meal after a long day of classes or family running from out of town, everyone leaves this food market happy and with a full belly.

Sonic’s Kitchen:
Sonic’s Kitchen is open Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and makes a great stop for an energy-boosting meal between classes. The SoFa Market offers a genuine variety of eateries in a single location on South First Street, a walkable distance from campus. It’s an ideal place to go when you’re in a large group of people and everyone’s craving something different. Whether it’s a meal after a long day of classes or family running from out of town, everyone leaves this food market happy and with a full belly.

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CSU vaccine policy is detrimental to SJSU

Strict mandates harm relationship between students and academic institutions

Madison Fagnudes
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Since the coronavirus vaccine got approved for emergency use in December 2020, immunization mandates have been hardly deployed by academic and corporate institutions such as San Jose State.

The California State University’s (CSU) COVID-19 vaccination policy requires complete immunization for students, faculty and staff by Sept. 30.

Students who refuse vaccination will be barred from campus facilities and programs including in-person classes and off-campus internships and activities, according to SJSU’s Health Advisories webpage.

If students continue to refuse vaccination, they can be subjected to administrative holds on their academic records and other conduct-related consequences, according to the same webpage.

The choice to receive the vaccine shouldn’t be decided by any corporate or academic institution. SJSU community members aren’t exempt from the constant flow of misinformation, fear and inconsistency from authorities that have impacted their trust in the vaccine.

A study published in June by Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute (MDDPI) evaluated factors that lead to vaccine hesitancy in adults in the United Kingdom and found that trust and misinformation were the most significant.

According to the study, many individuals cited inconsistent information and incompetent action from the government, which lead to mistrust. Others refused vaccination on account of conspiracy theories and concern for personal safety.

Political leaders have continuously changed their narrative about COVID-19 since the pandemic began, including former President Donald Trump, who was supposed to be a trustworthy authority figure. They lied about the dangers of the virus and allowed conspiracy theories to flourish.

Trump told the public multiple times COVID-19 “would go away without a vaccine” and lied about the severity of the pandemic, according to a Nov. 2, 2021 article by the Atlantic.

The CSU needs to take the public’s concerns into consideration and understand that students educate people rather than scare them more with mandates.

The SJSU community has good reason to be wary of the vaccine and the administration trying to coerce them into getting vaccinated with such draconian measures in counterintuitive.

According to a June 2021 study conducted by the Department of Psychology and Center for Empirical Research in Economics and Behavioral Sciences, mandating vaccines decreased the chances of an individual getting vaccinated, especially if they were already skeptical.

The CSU’s mandatory vaccination policy will likely discourage anyone who was contemplating getting the shot and reinforce doubtful beliefs of those who didn’t want to take it in the first place.

One reason the CSU system is able to require vaccination without raising legal questions, unlike K-12 schools, is because attending a university isn’t considered to be mandatory, according to a May 12 EducationWeek article.

While it’s true there’s no law requiring university students to remain in school, dropping out or transferring isn’t an option for most students. Many universities have lost 10 years of their early adulthood and tens of thousands of dollars into SJSU to receive their college degree, only to have it ripped away because of a personal choice regarding their body and health.

If the CSU wants its community to get vaccinated, it should incentivize people instead of punishing them.

Many companies, such as Target and Trader Joe’s, have started offering cash payments and free Lyft rides to employees who choose to get vaccinated, according to a Feb. 10 CNBC article.

Alternatively, the CSU could introduce programs to educate its community so they feel more secure in getting the vaccine. Students are already required to take online courses about Title IX, violence and drug and alcohol consumption, why not add COVID-19 education to the list?

Students who are still adamant about not receiving the vaccine should be able to opt for regular testing and mask-wearing throughout the entire semester instead.

The SJSU community should get vaccinated, but it should be their choice. The CSU needs to consider the fear, confusion and ever-changing information from the CDC, people face when deciding on getting the vaccine and work to make the process less painful for everyone.

Empathy and communication work better than ruling with an iron fist.

CSU vaccine policy is detrimental to SJSU

Students have poured years of their early adulthood and tens of thousands of dollars into SJSU to receive their college degree, only to have it ripped away because of a personal choice regarding their body and health.

I'd do it, but it was my decision. I wouldn't blame others for reacting adversely when the institution they’ve given so much to gives them an ultimatum and threatens their future, especially after more than a year of inconsistency and ill-prepared online existence.

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Letters to the Editor may be placed in the letters to the editor box in the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Bentel Hall, Room 209 or emailed to spartandaily@gmail.com to the attention of the Spartan Daily Opinion Editor.

Letters to the Editor must contain the author’s name, year and major. Letters become property of the Spartan Daily and may be edited for clarity, grammar, length and legal issues. Only letters of 300 words or less will be considered for publication. Published opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect the views of the Spartan Daily, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication or SJSU. The Spartan Daily is a public forum.

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Athletics prepares for fall sports return

By Samantha Herrera

San Jose State Athletics is welcoming back fans a full capacity this fall as the university’s coronavirus mandate will remain strict for student-athletes and spectators. SJU Athletics Director Jeff Konya said the athletics department is working with student-athletes to enforce SJU’s vaccine requirement. He said student-athletes will be precluded from participating in their sports if they refuse to comply with the university’s COVID-19 vaccination policy, which requires all students, faculty and staff to be fully vaccinated by Sept. 30.

“I think we have to take our cues from the NCAA [and] our conference, as well as the CSLU and our university, but we also have that commitment that whatever policies and procedures are implemented for the greater good for and the health, welfare and safety of our community,” he said.

However, Konya said if a student-athlete receives an approved medical or religious exemption, that still allows the student-athlete to participate in their sport.

“My assumption is that nothing would threaten the student’s ability to be a part of San Jose State University,” Konya said, adding that student-athletes have to “be a privilege, not a right.”

This fall, Football, Volleyball, men’s and women’s soccer, men’s water polo, and men’s and women’s golf return to their usual schedules, according to the SJU Athletics Department website. However, the men’s and women’s cross country teams’ seasons remain canceled and their Mountain West Championships postponed until further notice, according to the same website.

“It’s great to be back and we’re planning for 100% capacity here and football and [we’re] welcoming our entire community back,” Konya said during Zoom interviews.

For business/finance junior Tommy Potter, the news that fans are allowed back into CEFCU Stadium to experience football games is thrilling.

“It sounds like there’s going to be a lot of energy, a lot of people there and it sounds like it’s going to be a fun time,” Potter said.

It’s important to note that Konya said nothing is final and is working with the San Jose State Athletics department is planning on developing better student access to the south campus because of the two mile distance from SJU to south campus.

On Aug. 10, the Mountain West Conference postponed all sports because of public health orders recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In an article posted on the same date by San Jose State Athletics, Mountain West Commissioner Craig Thompson discussed how the constantly changing public health orders left the Mountain West and other conferences adjusting numerous times for a season that was still up in the air.

“We were hopeful we could carry on and responsibly conduct competition as originally scheduled with minimal protocols in place. However, numerous external factors and unknowns outside our control made this difficult decision necessary,” Thompson said. At the same time, the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) decided to cancel football games and postpone men’s and women’s soccer, according to a July 15, 2020 article posted by the WAC.

With the return of in-person games, Konya said the athletics department is planning on developing better student access to the south campus because of the two mile distance from SJU to south campus.

New tailgate areas and events such as concerts for football home games are also in the works.

“We’re going to create exciting tailgating areas [and] we’re talking about doing things other than pre-game or post-game and make a real experience out of it,” said Konya.

Business freshman Nima Zeymourtash said he’s an avid supporter of SJU Athletics and is anticipating those new improvements.

“There’s going to be a lot of passion in the crowds, something we didn’t see last year because of COVID-19 and the rise of it, so it’s going to be really exciting especially with the dorm back,” Zeymourtash said. “Having everyone here is going to make a big impact on the school.”

Follow Samantha on Twitter @SammiHerreraa_
Athletes ecstatic over fall sports arrival

People can expect exciting games and a team that has come together and is more of a family than anything else. We are going to fight hard until the last minute no matter what happens. It’s going to be exciting to watch us play in person. [and] I’m excited to see the fans in person.

Our main goal as a team is to want to play well and build confidence this fall to set us up for a strong spring season and get into the national championship. We want to learn as much as possible right now, grow as people and also want to learn as much as possible as golfers.

I am looking forward to taking my game to the next level, getting stronger in the gym, and developing my mental toughness. I am looking forward to taking one last time! [and] I’m excited to see the fans in person.

Our team is better than ever, because the returning players got better with time and practice and the new recruits we have are really talented players. We have the potential of going all the way and winning the conference.

This year’s team is better than ever, because the returning players got better with time and practice and the new recruits we have are really talented players. We have the potential of going all the way and winning the conference.

This season I’m looking forward most to enjoying the experience as a whole, being out here in California with my teammates and enjoying everyday.

I am beyond grateful for the opportunity to compete again in the Mountain West and think we have a great chance to show the conference what we can do. We have a really strong team this year, and I am so excited to build strong relationships on and off the court one last time!

Love this question, because it’s exactly what this family is doing. We’re looking forward. Our coach shared the vision for the 2021 year as the Season of the Phoenix. Our eyes are fixed on hope, renewal, and resurrection. It sounds super deep, but that’s who this team is. We are relentless with belief. And the elephant in the room is that we didn’t have the best season in 2020, but the best part about the vision is that the Phoenix rises from ashes and flourishes. It’s going to be a season where you see that happen. Our talent, competitiveness and family bond will bring us up and keep the program moving forward in the best direction.

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