

- **Booster requirement:** A COVID booster shot will be required for all students, faculty, and staff beginning Jan. 31, 2022. If it has been less than six months since your last COVID vaccine, you will be required to get the booster within one month of eligibility.
- **Remote learning:** Our spring semester will begin as planned on Tuesday, Jan. 18 and our campus will be open. However, classes for the **first two weeks of the semester (Jan. 18-28) will be taught remotely**. Staff able to work remotely will do so for the next four weeks and should talk with their supervisors about specific arrangements. **We will return to in-person work and instruction on Monday, Jan. 31.**
- **Community conversations:** To share greater detail on these decisions and to answer your questions, we will hold a "[Community Conversations: COVID](#)" virtual discussion on Tuesday, Jan. 11 from 10-11 a.m.

## Booster Requirement

It's critical that we take every measure possible to slow the spread of COVID. Omicron is spreading more rapidly than prior variants and has the potential to overwhelm the supply of hospital beds around the state. Not only are we concerned about the health impacts, but also the cascading absenteeism that may impact operations across the region, including in K-12 schools and transportation. We can't just think about CU Denver—we need to be considerate community members and do our part to help our neighbors and the medical system.

As such, after consulting with public health experts and my Cabinet, we decided that requiring boosters would be a critical way we can keep ourselves healthy, stem the spread of new cases, and reduce hospitalization rates. I'm pleased that more than half of our employees have received booster shots so far. Over the next week, you'll receive further details from the Lynx Together team on how to comply. But for now, if you haven't received your booster shot yet, please start making plans. You can schedule your free booster shot at the [Health Center at Auraria](#) or through [many other providers](#) in the metro Denver area. Going forward, CU Denver will consider our campus community members "fully vaccinated" if they have received the original dose(s) of the COVID vaccine plus a booster.

## Remote Learning

Limiting in-person contact for the first two weeks of the semester is the safest decision we can make at this time. The current models for Colorado show our Omicron cases peaking in mid-January before coming back down. I know so many of us are eager to resume on-campus learning, and based on what we know right now, we believe we can accomplish this by the end of the month.

Faculty will lead classes remotely from Jan. 18 to 28. I fully understand that this move to two weeks of remote instruction is not ideal and will create additional work for our students, faculty, and staff. We notified everyone of this possibility before the holiday break and wanted to share our final decision with as much notice as possible. Certain courses, such as labs and studios, can continue in-person with our existing safety requirements, including face coverings. However, if a student feels safer not coming to campus, they cannot be penalized for this decision. As such, I would highly encourage faculty to move the in-person components of labs and studios to later this semester. Resources to support faculty are available on the [Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning website](#). You can [book appointments now](#) with CETL staff for further guidance.

We have every intention of going back to in-person instruction starting Jan. 31 and continuing in that format until the end of the spring semester. Of course, we will stay connected with public health officials and make the best decisions in the name of safety if COVID case counts continue to rise.