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# FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

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Dear FM Team,

I know you are aware that CSU has a robust COVID Testing program in place, a combination of wastewater sample surveillance, nasal swab testing, and the newly launched saliva screening that began in October. Since August 17 CSU has conducted 25,000 mid-nasal swab tests for on-campus and off-campus students and employees. But did you know that Facilities Management has a significant role to play in the testing program? The Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) reached out to FM in the early part of July, asking for Project and Program Management support. Our FM Capital Construction group at once joined the COVID-19 Testing Program team to actively listen to the needs of campus partners from various departments and Colleges. Although you may be asking yourself how this is related to construction, we recognized early on that the testing program has a typical project framework focused on operations, logistics, and prompt communication. Like our construction projects, the first few tasks consisted of the creation of a scope, a schedule, and a budget, so the team could all work from the same baseline expectations.

The FM Capital Construction Team, and specifically Project Manager Brad Johnson, are engaged with onsite testing implementation and logistics. Hundreds of students and employees are tested at CSU each day, requiring constant attention to all aspects of testing needs, seven days a week. This comprehensive onsite management has several responsibilities, including scheduling use of facilities; oversight of daily operations; ensuring safety protocols are adhered to; restocking and sourcing supplies; building cryo-labeling solutions; interfacing IT solutions with onsite registration; handling day-to-day customer service questions and concerns; ordering saliva test kits; transporting samples to labs; setting up mobile testing teams that go to quarantine locations; and continual process improvement strategies.

The testing program now includes a two-step process with both (pooled) saliva screening and mid-nasal individual swab testing. The new saliva test, developed by CSU researchers, provides the ability to screen tenfold the number of students and employees. The new strategy will minimize the number of people needing a mid-nasal swab test; those tests will be required only for diagnosis if the saliva test results suggest that the virus is present. Until now, the university has limited testing to specific groups, including those mandated to test based upon wastewater surveillance. The saliva test offers the possibility that the University could scale up testing numbers, potentially providing the opportunity for any CSU community member to test when asked. The current budget and schedule of the testing program will take CSU through the end of the calendar year, with the direction that this program continue through the spring semester (May 2021). The University will assess future needs at that time.

Please join me in recognizing the efforts of our FM Capital Construction team, as this testing program has truly been a team effort involving our diverse campus community.



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