

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

The Response Team has been meeting many times a week since March 6, 2020 in order to stay up-to-date with the rapidly evolving information and guidelines from the CDC, State and local health departments, as well as executive orders from the States of Arizona and Illinois. Collectively, we have discussed and endeavored to always provide timely answers to questions raised by the faculty, staff and students of Midwestern University. Always at the forefront, we have explored many different ways to bring our community safely together, while also fulfilling our mission and commitment to educate our students in a safe and healthy environment. Fortunately, and unlike many universities around the country, we were able to effectively shift classroom learning to online course delivery, and stay open to maintain essential University operations needed to support our students, faculty and staff. Working together, our colleges successfully completed the spring quarter and graduated almost all of our students on time. That same momentum, which has allowed us to enroll many new health care students this spring, continues as we plan for the Fall 2020 quarter and beyond.

While many faculty members are anxious to return to classrooms and laboratories, I know there are others that are concerned that we may not have enough precautions in place to protect the health and well-being of faculty and students. I certainly understand these feelings and the anxiety associated with offering an on campus learning model during this pandemic. Therefore, it is important for you to know of the precautionary steps we have in place to assist faculty, staff and students returning to campus. All colleges and departments of Midwestern University have made preparations for the upcoming academic year, knowing that we must educate and reinforce high standards and protocols that revolve around protecting every member of our academic family. Each of us needs to do our part and adhere to the new protocol and standards, as we adjust to our new normal knowing COVID-19 will be with us in the foreseeable future.

New Protocol One: Daily Health Screening

All faculty, staff and students are being asked to complete a Daily Health Screening to bring better awareness and understanding of how personal health impacts your colleagues and students on days that you are scheduled to be on campus. The faculty and staff screenings begin on July 20, 2020, and the student screenings will begin the following week.

- To complete the Daily Health Screening, you can respond to a link that will be sent via email, each day, to your Midwestern University inbox. You can also download the Midwestern University Health Screen icon to your mobile device for easy access to the link. Completing this screening needs to be done prior to coming to campus, or upon arrival. You only have to complete it once a day to have access to campus facilities you regularly enter for class, clinic or office. Instructions on how to download the Health Screen icon on your mobile device will be sent to your inbox within the next two days.
- There are approximately 11 questions to answer along with providing your daily temperature reading. Once completed, you will receive instructions to either come to campus or contact your supervisor.

New Protocol Two: Classrooms, Laboratories and Lecture Halls

Members of the Campus Facilities and Readiness Team have completed extensive audits of each classroom, laboratory and lecture hall on our campuses to identify what changes needed to be implemented under the new public health guidelines. The biggest modification to campus is the new occupancy counts for 75 classrooms and lecture halls. We have significant reductions in occupancy levels, and will schedule smaller student groups to the teaching facilities on both the Downers Grove and Glendale Campuses. Today, as you enter campus you will encounter new signage including new occupancy counts, social distanced chairs and desks, limited seating in auditoriums, and new designated laboratory work stations. Signage will guide you to entrances and exits, and provide six-foot spacing when entering a facility. Other significant changes include the following:

- New technology in all 75 classrooms and lecture halls include new hardware and software that can provide the same experience for students online and in person with simple recording of all presentation materials and documents. While teaching, faculty can now just push one button to record their lecture and it directly loads the video content into their CANVAS course. We have purchased and installed new conference room style microphones to provide improved audio experience for the students online and the actual recording. We have now integrated the document cameras into the computer for the online student experience. To assist our faculty, they will be provided with clear keyboard covers, sanitizing “to go” kits to use in classrooms and lecture halls, to sanitize screens or other equipment. Face shields will be made available to faculty when lecturing and teaching.
- Students will be encouraged to contact their faculty for advising and assistance with teaching materials via TEAMS instead of in person at the end of the lecture, in a classroom or office. All students will be required to wear a mask at all lectures.

New Protocol Three: Faculty, Staff and Students Returning to the State of Illinois

The City of Chicago and now all of Cook County are under a Public Health Order requiring a 14-day quarantine if you are entering the area. We encourage all students, faculty and staff to carefully plan for this additional quarantine when making vacation plans and returning to campus for the fall quarter.

- While subject to change, the states currently include: Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Utah.

Call to Action

Midwestern University is committed to our Five Step Plan to bring greater diversity, equity and inclusion to our community. We have many active committees reviewing policies, curriculum, community outreach and recruitment of minority students, faculty and staff. Some of our programs have begun outreach to more diverse clinical sites, with considerable success. The College of Health Sciences on the Glendale Campus established a new CHS Research Grant which gives special consideration for proposals focusing on admissions, curriculum, clinical rotations and a campus-wide CANVAS course on diversity-related resources. Our Libraries have published a listing of new resources that bring many new diversity, equity and inclusion educational materials to all our faculty, staff and students. I wish to thank

every member of this community who is participating in our Call To Action. Together we will make a difference.

COVID-19 Update

As I write this evening, I am sad to share that we continued to see additional COVID-19 cases on our campuses this past week. On our Downers Grove campus we have one additional member of our faculty and staff who tested positive for COVID-19 and one additional student. On our Glendale campus this week, we had five additional students test positive and three additional positive cases within our faculty and staff. Please remember, if you had been in contact with any individual who tested positive, you would have already been notified.

I am confident we can successfully move forward and face this new reality together. Please take care of yourself and your family. As a healthcare community, let's use our insight to help improve the lives of those we care about.

Be well.

Dr. G.