

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

Hikers refer to them as “middle-miles.” These are the most exhausting, challenging miles on a path. Today, that is where we are. The Response Team has spent the past five months preparing for the next stretch of our journey; slowly and carefully bringing students, faculty and staff back to campus. We are implementing a hybrid educational program, and providing instruction to everyone about the new safety protocols at Northwestern University. We began this journey in early March 2020, an exhilarating challenge when we stated extensive planning to establish a safe campus community and significantly reducing occupancy levels in all of our facilities. Through long and thoughtful planning with our academic deans and faculty, we have identified classes that can be taught online, while arranging for laboratory experiences and lectures on campus. The end of the pandemic is not yet within our sight; however we are prepared for the next phase of our journey as many of our students begin their classes this coming Monday, August 10, 2020.

This past week we have no new faculty and staff positive cases of COVID-19. However, we have three positive student cases in Downers Grove and unfortunately, these students attended a party together off campus on Friday evening and again on Saturday evening. Please be aware, the students were not on the academic campus and did not have any unprotected direct contact with faculty or staff in our healthcare setting. All students who attended these gatherings last weekend have been quarantined.

As we begin additional classes, I once again must ask everyone on campus to follow established protocols. These are extremely important to keep our faculty, staff and students safe.

Important Campus Protocols

- Wear a facemask on campus when you are in a class or with anyone else on campus. This includes all faculty, staff and students.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Observe the directional signage and remain six feet apart when entering or exiting a building.
- Students please do not approach a faculty member before or after a class, and only meet with your faculty via Microsoft Teams or WebEx.
- Do not congregate in small spaces or colleagues offices.
- And please, do not attend large gatherings, parties, or other social events that can put you, your family and friends at risk. Northwestern University is committed to having all of our students progress with their academic requirements and all of us should make every effort to make our students successful. Please make responsible decisions for the safety of everyone on campus and in our community.

Contract Tracing

- Northwestern University has hired a Physician Assistant, Ms. Deborah Sullivan who will be joining the Department of Risk Management as a Clinical Specialist. After orientation, she will begin reviewing all new positive COVID-19 cases and will be responsible for all contract tracing. She will work closely with Student Services and Human Resources.
- Ms. Sullivan was previously a full time faculty member in our Northwestern University Glendale Physician Assistant Program and also in the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine. Most recently she has been an adjunct faculty member and we are pleased to welcome her back to join our Risk Management Team.

If you are unable to Return to Campus

- Any faculty member who cannot return to campus for medical reasons, has an immediate family member with a health issue, or needs a Temporary Job Modification, please contact Ms. Angela Marty with your written request and supporting documentation.
- Any staff member who cannot return to campus for the three exceptions listed above should contact Ms. Amy Gibson in the Human Resource Department with a written request and supporting documentation.
- Any student with underlying health conditions should reach out to Dr. Ross Kosinski, Dean of Students with a written request and supporting documentation

Update on the Five Step Plan to increase Cultural Diversity and Inclusivity

The Colleges and Departments of Northwestern University have continued to make substantial progress on the Five Step Plan to improve our cultural diversity. Following many listening sessions, new college committees are being appointed and others have begun implementation of their plans. A few college examples that were presented this week include the following:

- The Chicago College of Optometry has formed a committee to begin working with a Black Student Association at a local high school, focusing their outreach on encouraging students to stay in school, consider careers in health care, and better understand the career path a student needs to follow to be successful in all their educational endeavors. In addition, the CCO students have identified a need for greater multi-cultural health, to assist them to better diagnose and treat people from diverse backgrounds. This will be added to their curriculum.
- The University Policy Review Task Force has identified a means to link their efforts with the University Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Committee. They will seek opportunities to improve cross collaboration between the Colleges and Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Committee. They are also exploring ways to increase programming of speakers and activities between all the colleges and departments on campus.

For those of you who have carefully walked the journey with us during the pandemic, know that we are in this together to educate and care for the students who put their trust in us. I am hopeful that when this long hike is over, we will get to the end of the pandemic and marvel at how far we have come.

Be well.

Dr. G.