

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

As we continue to evaluate the best way Northwestern University can address the ongoing and evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) developments we are implementing a number of new initiatives in our efforts to be proactive and ensure the health and well-being of our students and employees.

Please know that at this time, we don't have known or confirmed COVID-19 cases within our Downers Grove or Glendale Campus communities, and the initiatives being implemented are precautionary measures based on CDC guidelines.

Northwestern University is unique compared to other universities around the country. We are a health care university, and times like this the country needs more health care personnel to be prepared and receive outstanding training to meet any health care crisis. Over the past few weeks, it has become clear that the world is facing an unprecedented challenge.

The steps listed below are being implemented to continue to protect our academic community and maintain educational delivery with minimal disruptions for our students, while addressing the developing health concerns we are all facing.

### **Campus Facilities**

- All buildings on both the Downers Grove and Glendale Campus now have 100% outside airflow which keeps active air exchange.
- The campus facilities are being sanitized daily and throughout each day as we have once again increased staffing.
- We are considering the possibility of temporarily reducing extended hours on buildings at night to allow for more extensive cleaning work to be conducted. The revised schedule for after-hours use of labs, study spaces and other areas will be shared as soon as it's available.

### **Classes, Lectures, and Laboratory Sessions**

- Each college is evaluating which lectures could be temporarily offered online to reduce large student gatherings. This is a very fluid situation as some classes need practical experiences to teach the curriculum. Students will be notified by their College Dean of classes that can be effectively taught via Canvas and other programs. This is initially being implemented for the next two weeks.
- Colleges have been encouraged to hold small group sessions in their laboratories and simulation centers. The Dean of each College will work with faculty in developing the schedule for these modified lab sessions, and they will communicate information about these changes to students soon.
- The Testing Center will work with the Colleges to, if necessary, modify testing schedules in order to maximize the physical distance between students taking exams.

### **Faculty and Staff**

- As we continue to emphasize, if you are ill, please do not come to work. Use your benefits to care for yourself and family.

- Human Resources will be sending more detailed information regarding benefits and provide guidelines later today; please look for the announcement.
- Any employees impacted by the closing of K – 12 schools may consider utilizing available time off benefits after discussing options with their supervisor.

### **Campus Gatherings**

- All Colleges/Departments special events, community events, student group events, and student off-campus parties scheduled for the next 3 weeks will postponed until further notice.
- The Human Resource In-services will be postponed until further notice.
- Student intramurals will be postponed until further notice.

Midwestern University's campuses remain open as we continue to be committed to our mission of educating the healthcare team of tomorrow. Our clinics remain open to provide exceptional care to the many patients that depend on us. Our food service, libraries, wellness centers, counseling services, and computer labs are open to support the many students, faculty, and staff that are on campus.

Our students have extensive requirements for graduation that must be met within a specific time frame in order to graduate and progress promptly to their professional careers and residency programs. The accreditation agencies have not changed the standards toward graduation and we have an obligation to meet these standards.

I care deeply about each one of you. We need to keep our spirits up positively and professionally while working towards meeting the public needs from the health care community.

Dr. G