

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

This is a landmark week for Midwestern University. We have no new cases of COVID-19 to report from our faculty, staff and students on the Downers Grove Campus or Glendale Campus. We are truly seeing the light at the end of this long and difficult pandemic. All of you have contributed to this outcome by wearing your masks, socially distancing and taking great care of maintaining your own health.

Three weeks ago we launched Operation Hope on the Glendale Campus to celebrate the opening of our Vaccination Center. As of today, we have administered approximately 2400 vaccines to our faculty, staff, students and many grateful patients. It has been an uplifting experience to see the so many thankful members of our community come in to experience a seamless, well-run Vaccination Center. The Center depends on our volunteers. The faculty, staff and students who have been caring, enthusiastic and dedicated to every individual who has entered. We could not do this without the cooperation and willingness of our community.

Next Tuesday, March 9, 2021, we launch Operation Hope in the Downers Grove Multispecialty Clinic. The Vaccination Center will operate on the 6th Floor, with a welcome center and patient registration in the lobby. We will begin vaccinating 120 faculty, staff and students on the first day, and then invite clinic patients to join our community daily as we schedule appointments to reach our target of 120 vaccinations each day. Once again, I am thankful for all of you who are volunteering and I look forward to helping our Downers Grove Campus launch this important new Vaccination Center.

Revisions to the Daily Health Screening Process

In light of the reduction of COVID-19 cases, and revisions to the guidance provided by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, we are making changes to our Daily Health Screening as of Monday, March 8, 2021. I thank all of you for embracing the Daily Health Screening Process over the past many months as we implement these new questions.

The Daily Health Screening will now begin by asking these two new questions:

1. Have you been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 (more than 14 days following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or more than 14 days following receipt of the single-dose vaccine) within the past 90 days?
2. Have you had a laboratory-confirmed positive test for COVID-19, recovered, and been released back to campus in the last 90 days?

If you answer “yes” to either of the questions above, then you will need to answer whether you are experiencing any of the listed symptoms. If you do not have symptoms, you will be cleared to come to campus without further questioning. If you do have symptoms, you will be asked to remain off campus until you’re cleared to return by the HR COVID Team or Student COVID Team.

Diversity and Inclusion Progress

All of our colleges and departments have maintained their commitment to increase our diversity and inclusion on each campus and in our community. I would like to highlight four programs that illustrate the work being accomplished.

The Midwestern University Chicago College of Osteopathic Medical (CCOM) students have conducted a Mini Medical School for high school students. The interactive experience was very well received as students were encouraged to explore careers in health care. In addition, members of the CCOM Student Government Association are welcoming our campus community to participate in a virtual lecture series aimed at understanding and changing racial inequities in healthcare on a systemic and personal level. The first session will be held at noon on March 13, 2021, entitled "History of Racism in Healthcare." Click this link to register: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/12NmNocZ5GkvqJwa1Ecb8tnJ2odvzPf-YKNPGzqYl4kA/viewform?edit_requested=true

The Midwestern University College of Graduate Studies and the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine jointly attended a webinar presented by the International Association of Medical Science Education entitled "Creating Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive Content in Medical Education." The purpose of the program was to enhance understanding and provide faculty with a concrete framework for educators to address racism and other forms of bias.

This past Sunday, February 28th, the University showed its support for Rare Disease Day by lighting in blue the Bell Tower on the Downers Grove Campus and the Sahuaro Cactus Sculpture on the Glendale Campus to raise awareness about the millions of people in the United States and also around the world who are living with a rare disease. It is estimated that 1 in 20 people will live with a rare disease during their lifetime. As we educate our future healthcare providers, it is important for them to be aware of these diseases, of which many are undiagnosed, that significantly impact someone's quality of life so they may provide these patients with the best care in their chosen fields. To learn more, please visit <https://www.rarediseaseday.org/>

On March 26, 2021 please join the Midwestern University Research Committee as they present another Health Equity Research Presentation in their ongoing series. Dr. Angela Colantonio, Ph.D., OT Reg., FCAHS, FACRM, Professor, Rehabilitation Science Institute, University of Toronto, presents, "Traumatic brain injury in underserved populations: Addressing inequities." The lecture will be presented at 10:00 A.M. for the Glendale Campus (Arizona) and 12:00 P.M. for the Downers Grove Campus (Central).

Operation Hope is another way we are giving back to our community, caring for those in need, and helping our families, friends and colleagues live healthier lives. This wonderful work, which so many of you are participating in, brings us one more step closer, each day, to having all of us back together again.

Be well.

Dr. G.