

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

On Monday, September 7, 2020, we'll celebrate Labor Day, a holiday that began on September 5, 1882. It was established to recognize and honor the social and economic achievements of every person who contributes to the strength, prosperity and well-being of their organizations and our country. I am proud to recognize the many faculty and staff members of Northwestern University who exemplify the values of Labor Day as they contribute to the mission of Northwestern University by educating all of our 7200 students who represent the next generation of healthcare professionals.

I sincerely hope all of you enjoy the upcoming weekend, and have the opportunity to celebrate this holiday with your immediate family and friends by enjoying a backyard barbecue, visiting with neighbors or taking a short road trip. As you plan your weekend, please remember that by limiting your attendance in any large gathering, staying socially distant from others and continuing personal hygiene standards, these simple measures will keep you and your family safe. Please don't put these practices on hold during a holiday weekend, but rather continue the safety practices we follow here on our campuses.

This past week Northwestern University has not had one positive case reported for any faculty and staff member on our campuses. While they have not been present on either campus, we have 15 out of 7200 students who have tested positive for COVID-19, which represents a positivity rate of .002. All except two of these students are from the Downers Grove campus. I am respectfully requesting all students follow our safety protocols at all times.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have lifted quarantine standards for international travel. Effective today, September 4, 2020, the quarantine standards for international travel, or travel from states on the Cook County quarantined list will no longer be in effect at Northwestern University. However, we are stressing every individual must take responsibility for their own health and well-being, and respect the health and well-being of their colleagues. If you are concerned that your travels have put you in greater risk of contracting COVID-19, please discuss this with your supervisor or your Academic Dean. You may need to self-quarantine prior to returning to campus.

New and Improved Meal Services

- Beginning Wednesday, September 9, we plan to expand both online ordering and food delivery services. On both the Downers Grove and Glendale Campuses, food can currently be ordered online by faculty and staff with three pickup windows: 11:30 AM to noon, 12:00 to 12:30 and 12:30 to 1:00 P.M. After ordering, each employee will receive an email when the order is available for pick up at our cafeterias in the Commons in Downers Grove or Barrel II in Glendale.
- On the Downers Grove Campus, we have been delivering lunches to the Multispecialty Clinic since March, 2020. We are increasing delivery times to the Clinic with an early drop-off at approximately 10:45 A.M. along with the existing 11:45 A.M, and 12:15 P.M. There will be two delivery locations in the Clinic, expanding delivery to the new break room on the 6th floor.
- On the Downers Grove Campus we will begin delivery to the break room in the Hyde Atrium at 11:30 A.M., 12:00 noon and 12:30 P.M.

- Our expansion of the meal service on the Glendale Campus includes new eating spaces convenient to the pick-up location in Barrell II. Additional dining locations have been created in the Barrel II Game Room and at the Wellness and Recreation Hall. We are also adding new delivery options to the clinic side of campus. Delivery to the clinics will occur between 11:45 and noon to the Dental Institute and the Companion Animal Clinic. We are currently preparing a new break room in the CAC and expect to have that ready soon.
- The Glendale cafeteria staff will be working to expand the number of items available for pick up or delivery to include hot items. They will be purchasing some insulated bags to keep the food warm, so hot item delivery will be available later in September once the insulated bags arrive and we can ensure that the food will stay warm during transport.
- Last month, we rolled out a new meal plan benefit for all Midwestern University students. This meal plan allows students to add funds to their MWU ID badge for use in the cafeteria and qualify for a 15% university match. Since many students placed funds on their ID badge before we introduced this new meal plan, we have decided to provide students with an opportunity to roll over any existing ID badge funds to our new meal plan program, and take advantage of the 15% University match. Each student having funds on their badge will be prompted for their selection to either rollover existing funds to a meal plan, which will qualify for an additional 15% University contribution, or to keep the funds available for use in the bookstore, copy center, library, or anywhere on campus where the Midwestern University ID card is accepted as a form of payment. Meal plan funds will carry forward from quarter to quarter and can be used by the student throughout the duration of their enrollment.
- Finally, we are enhancing the online ordering system to offer more options and more flexibility. We will be selecting some groups of students to help us pilot test online ordering with the intention of enabling this for all students later in September.
- We hope that these enhancements will provide everyone with an easy-to-use option to order meals for either pick up or delivery and offer everyone new convenient eating locations at our campus and clinic locations. I am grateful for the Cafeteria Staff for their willingness to make lunch on campus a great option for all of us.

May this Labor Day weekend provide everyone an opportunity to enjoy the last official days of summer and a time to relax and prepare for a busy fall quarter for all of our students. All of you have my thanks and deepest respect. I know you work hard to provide our students and your colleagues with a wonderful, safe environment, and I thank you for your commitment to our mission.

Have a safe and restful Labor Day holiday, and thank you for all that you do for Midwestern University.

Be well.

Dr. G.