

3-17-20 Evening Update

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

Over the past few days we have evolved from a very traditional learning environment to a new online platform in many of our classes and programs. I believe the Information Technology Service department along with all of our faculty and staff have done an amazing job in making the impossible actually happen quickly and effectively. To all of you that have contributed to this transformation, I thank you.

I also ask for your patience as we continue to implement additional steps toward assisting all our faculty, staff and students during this time of a national health care crisis that is impacting all aspects of Midwestern University.

Evolving Considerations

- We are evaluating the critical campus services that must remain open and operational for the safety and security of the community. These include emergency and critical care in our clinic operations, labs, libraries, student support areas, food service and counseling. The continuity of services allows special consideration to the many staff members who depend on Midwestern University to support their families and loved ones.
- With the assistance of Human Resources, we are assessing positions that can be performed from a remote location. The complexity of this is enormous and includes the availability of personal technology and the speed and strength of internet connections. With almost every employer in the nation trying to provide remote technology, we have learned that there is a severe shortage of available equipment.
- In departments where positions must be on campus, we are following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and have implemented social distancing. We are recommending the use of teleconference meetings, utilizing larger conference room, and vacant classrooms.

Services

- All Student Housing Units remain open and operational. Common areas are being cleaned frequently and students are asked not to congregate in lobbies and rooms with more than 10 in attendance.
- Food service is available on the Downers Grove and Glendale campus. With the closing of many restaurants, faculty, staff and students can pick up food items to go or practice social distancing and enjoy a meal in the Dining Rooms.
- Libraries on both campuses remain open. Students are encouraged to social distance themselves in both the group study rooms and study areas.

- Computer labs continue to be available. Keyboards are being wiped down on a regular basis.
- Student Counseling Services is available via a confidential and HIPPA secure WebEx. This system has been tested and will be implemented tomorrow.

Reminders

- Please do not come to campus if you are sick.
- If you are concerned about a high risk loved one at home please make prudent decisions. Faculty and staff should use paid time off or vacation time. Students should discuss this with the Dr. Kosinski, Dean of Students or your academic dean.
- Self-quarantine if you have been out of the country in the past 14 days. The list of countries has expanded greatly and we are asking everyone who has traveled internationally to self-quarantine for the recommended 14-day period.
- Remember we have non-discrimination policies and practices that pertain to every member of the community. Let's practice them every day.

I know these are stressful days and there is a great deal of fear within the nation. But let's remember who we are as a Health Care community caring for those in need.

As I share with all students at graduation, "If you can be one thing...Be Kind". Let's live by this motto as we help our neighbors, family, friends and colleagues in the days and weeks to come.

We can get through this together...we are Midwestern University.

Dr. G.