

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

While the end of 2020 is within sight, I find it a time to reflect back on our past year and the many hero's that have evolved during the pandemic. While much of the world came to a standstill, Midwestern faculty, staff and students stepped up to continue our mission with strength, fortitude and innovation. During this holiday season I am filled with gratitude for the contributions and sacrifices that were made by all of you.

As we begin our 2020 Holiday Break, I thought some of you would like to look back on the past 14 Days of Midwestern University Holiday Cheer. We posted a video in the MWU Holiday Fun Teams channel that we hope will put a smile on your face as we look back at our December celebrations: <https://midwestern0.sharepoint.com/sites/MWUHolidayFun/Shared%20Documents/14%20Days%20-%20Holiday%20Cheer/14%20MWU%20Holiday%20Cheer.mp4>

COVID-19 Protocols During the Holiday Break

- The Daily Health Screening does not have to be completed if you are not coming to campus, but if you are coming into the campus, please complete the health screening.
- If you become ill over the holidays, and are in testing or have tested positive for COVID-19, please e-mail the information to the following:
 - the Human Resources
 - Student Services
- The HR and Student Services team will get back to you over the weekend, but the response may be slower than normal due to holiday plans.

Update on COVID-19 cases

- This past week we have experienced a greater number of new positive cases in Glendale than on the Downers Grove Campus. We have 8 new faculty and staff cases, with 6 from the Glendale campus and two from Downers Grove. We unfortunately have 12 new positive student cases in Glendale and 5 from Downers Grove. No one is hospitalized, and the cases are relatively mild.
- Contract tracing has proven once again that these cases all link to informal parties and home gatherings.
- If you have questions or concerns, please reach out via email to the following:
 - Faculty and Staff- HRCovidteam@midwestern.edu
 - Students- StudentCOVIDteam@midwestern.edu

5 Point Plan for Diversity and Inclusion

Our community outreach continues as we focus on how we can make a difference for needy families. The Diversity and Inclusion Task Force in Business Services held a coat drive in Downers Grove and a food drive in Glendale. Facilities came together to make generous donations to UMOM, and Student Services and Campus Security on both campuses came together to provide generously for Toys for Tot. The Physician Assistant students came together to provide holiday greeting cards for local nursing home and cancer patients, while the Student Veterinaries held a holiday beanie hat fundraiser to raise proceeds to benefit foster care for animals abandoned in our community over the holidays.

As a reminder, both campuses will be closed starting this Monday, December 21, 2020 through Friday, January 1, 2021. General university campus operations will resume on Monday, January 4, 2021 (with some clinics returning on January 2). May this time allow for quiet days to step back from our busy lives and take a moment to appreciate all that we have. As we celebrate, let's be sure to also take the time to help the less fortunate and remember those who are away from home.

You all have my best wishes for a very happy, healthy and peaceful holiday. I am sharing my best wishes for our Holiday and New Year's wishes in the following video, <http://www.kaltura.com/tiny/s41e5> - please enjoy.

Be well.

Dr. G.

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