

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

I often think one unanswered question becomes one too many. However, over the past thirteen weeks, we were unable to answer questions that many of you asked while we waited for Executive Orders to be lifted, assessed our inventory of personal protection equipment, and established social distancing for our facilities. We have heard many of your common questions, such as when will the Wellness Recreation Centers open, how soon can I obtain materials from the library, when will counseling and student services begin, and when am I returning to campus? All of these are very important questions that impact the many critical functions of our university campuses.

The COVID-19 Response Team met today, Wednesday, May 27, 2020 and determined that it is best to begin publishing some potential target dates in order to begin answering your questions. The tentative schedule is listed below. It is important to note there are many factors impacting this schedule. For instance, when a department starts bringing more faculty and staff back to campus, it will be done on a gradual basis. Every department will establish their staffing requirements based on a schedule that meets operational and student needs. Faculty and staff who are unable to return to campus due to illness or extenuating circumstances need to contact Human Resources once their supervisor has confirmed a transitions staffing plan.

Upcoming Schedule

- June 1, 2020 – Clinic Operations
 - Downers Grove Eye Institute
 - Glendale Dental Institute
 - Glendale Eye Institute
 - Glendale Therapy Institute
 - Glendale Companion Animal Clinic
 - Glendale Bovine and Equine Center
 - Glendale Diagnostic Pathology Center

- June 1, 2020 – Academic Labs – limited to small groups of students and faculty
 - Glendale Nurse Anesthesia Lab
 - Glendale Cardiovascular Lab
 - Glendale Dental Simulation Lab
 - Glendale Optometry Simulation Lab
 - Glendale Physical Therapy Lab
 - Downers Grove Clinical Skill and Simulation Center

- June 8, 2020 – Clinic Operations
 - Downers Grove Dental Institute

- June 8, 2020 – Student Support Departments on both the Glendale and Downers Grove Campuses – gradual transition staffing
 - Wellness Recreation Centers
 - Libraries
 - Business Services
 - Student Financial Aid and Registrar
 - Student Services

- Glendale Clinical Skills and Simulation Center
- June 11, 2020 and June 15, 2020 – Academic Labs – limited to small groups of students
 - Glendale Occupational Therapy Lab
 - Glendale Podiatric Medicine Lab
 - Downers Grove Pharmacy Practice Lab
- June 15, 2020 – Support Services and College personnel as needed on both the Glendale and Downers Grove Campuses – gradual transition staffing
 - All Colleges and Program Director Offices and Faculty as needed
 - Human Resources
 - Admissions
 - Media Resources
 - Communications
 - Development and Alumni Relations
 - Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and Institute of Healthcare Innovation
 - Centralized Office of Experiential Education

Reminders

- All faculty and staff, whether working on campus or working from home, will be required to review the Midwestern University Health and Safety Video, available later in the week. This training focuses on social distancing and the use of cloth face masks on campus.
- Not all departments are listed above. Many of these have remained on campus with staggered staffing. Faculty and staff in these areas will be receiving additional scheduling information in the upcoming weeks. This includes the testing centers and multispecialty clinic scheduling.
- As many of our summer classes will remain in an online format for our students, faculty are encouraged to work with students, providing them with all the required materials and mentoring them from either the campus or from home as needed.

I have heard that many faculty and staff say they cannot wait to get back to campus, having felt self-isolated in their homes for so long. Others remain fearful of leaving their homes. All of these feelings are very natural and very much understood. As we look to the summer months, it is my hope that through our weeks of careful planning, we will gradually transition to an active campus community, knowing that your well-being, health and safety come first. We can all work through this next transition by working together and by taking care of each other.

Be well.

Dr. G.