

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

In every great challenge there is an opportunity for renewal and growth. We are still facing a serious challenge as we deal directly with the COVID-19 public health crisis and cannot ignore the impact of this disease as the states and country begin opening retail operations, restaurants, and malls.

We must, as a campus community, continue to work together to prevent the rise and spread of COVID-19, especially in the State of Arizona where the cases continue to increase at a rapid pace. As of today, June 25, 2020, there were 3,056 new positive COVID-19 cases reported in Arizona, taking the total positive cases to 63,030, and contributing to the death of 1,490 individuals. Headlines around the country are highlighting that “Arizona cases have skyrocketed,” and New York, New Jersey and other eastern states have announced that anyone traveling from Arizona must be quarantined for 14 days.

This past week we once again began planning for the fall quarter. While many of our didactic courses will be offered online, we have diligently reviewed our room capacities and ability to bring students back to campus for laboratory work, simulation centers, and some classes. This work is an ongoing planning exercise to prepare for the months ahead. It is our hope to provide all colleges and academic programs with a number of options to provide every student with a robust educational experience. We will continue to plan a roadmap for the upcoming months.

In light of today’s recommendation by the State of Arizona Governor to encourage a “Stay at Home” policy, I am recommending all departments limit the number of employees on both of our campuses to approximately 50% staffing levels. This does not include those in positions who are essential to operating the campus and clinics. With additional outbreaks in Arizona, I strongly recommend that our Glendale clinics limit the number of patients that are scheduled each day to allow for social distancing.

Midwestern University Protocols

- Wear a cloth mask or clinical disposable mask at all times when you are within six feet of your colleagues or fellow students on campus, and in all public settings.
- Maintain proper social distance at all times when you interact with others, on and off campus. This includes situations such as having lunch with friends/colleagues, going out for coffee or shopping, participating in group exercising, and other related activities. Please encourage your family and friends to do the same.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the restrooms, before eating, and blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- Stay at home if you are sick.
- Remember that your health is a personal and private matter. If you contact Human Resources or Student Services, rest assured that your health will never be shared with others. Midwestern University will not share with you anyone’s health reports. When we get a positive case, whether it is a student, faculty, staff or patient, we cannot report who this is, due to privacy regulations. We can only share the number of positive cases reported to Midwestern

University. However, if you were in close contact with a colleague, student or patient who tests positive, you will be personally notified by Human Resources or Student Services.

- We have three additional positive employee cases on the Arizona Campus this week, and two additional student cases, also in Arizona. We wish our colleagues and students speedy recoveries.

Please renew your commitment to slow the spread of COVID-19. We as a community will continue to grow stronger by focusing on the health and well-being of our entire community. I am encouraging everyone to adhere to the safety protocols in order to keep each other healthy.

Be well.

Dr. G.