

College community,

Since our return to campus in July you have all done an amazing job following safety protocols, keeping our entire campus safe. Collectively we have made it through 12 weeks of fall semester with minimal impact. However, in the last two weeks we have experienced an increase in the number of students and employees either testing positive or coming in contact with a COVID positive person and therefore needing to quarantine. This increase in cases for the College is correlated to the increase in our off-campus communities. The College developed metrics to determine the level of spread needed before we switched to stricter health and safety standards. **The safety of students and employees is paramount in our decision-making process, and with the increasing number of cases we must change our operational status to orange.**

This metric dictates the transition to remote learning and having fewer students and employees on campus. Certain programs and courses will continue to meet face-to-face utilizing safety measures, due to the requirements of external accrediting agencies, or necessity to complete certain aspects of a course (labs, clinical, etc.). The week of November 9th will be used to provide time for students and faculty to map out the remainder of the term, to ensure the best possible educational outcome. Directors and faculty will be providing students with information regarding how programs and courses will be handled beginning November 16th, including whether or not your class will transition to remote learning.

We will continue with the orange status level through the first week of spring semester (Jan. 11-15). This means classes still begin January 11th, and the first week of spring semester will occur in a remote format. We will then transition to yellow status, which includes face-to-face courses. As with all COVID related decisions, this plan may change based on disease spread and external guidance or requirements from local, state, or federal entities.

Again, I want to thank you for all you have done to help keep others safe while on-campus.

A grateful president,

Dr. McCall