

June 24, 2020

Dear Iowa State Community,

Since the June 10 announcement about the fall semester and during the June 12 virtual town hall for faculty and staff, senior leaders and I received thoughtful feedback about our key decisions. I am writing to share a few updates and reminders.

Face Coverings Required

Face coverings and/or face shields will be required in classrooms, offices, and other areas where physical distancing is not possible. This is an adjustment from our original face covering policy. The requirement will take effect **Wednesday, July 1**.

- The university is providing two cloth face coverings to all students, faculty, and staff who request them, free of charge. Face shields can also be requested. Campus units should reserve face coverings for their employees through [central stores](#).
- We are working on plans to distribute cloth face coverings to students, including at Destination Iowa State and residence hall and on-campus apartment move-in. More information will soon be shared about how and where students can get face coverings at locations around campus.

Requiring face coverings is important to help mitigate the risk of COVID-19 as we return to a residential campus and support our academic mission. Face coverings are a key element of our “new normal.” Modeling this requirement and educating our campus with care and compassion are how we can help everyone understand the importance of this and other mitigation efforts.

We do not want face coverings to become a source of conflict on our campus. Creating positive reinforcement regarding wearing face coverings is the best method to encourage compliance. Where this does not work, enforcement policies and procedures, which are currently being formed, will be applied. In general, faculty and staff should contact their own supervisor, and students should contact the Dean of Students Office, regarding issues related to individuals failing to wear face coverings.

Cyclones Care

Please also show care by wearing a face covering when you are out in the community. This includes shopping, riding CyRide, and in any situation where you can't maintain a 6-foot physical distance.

The university is working with Ames and Story County to coordinate and share in a social responsibility campaign – “Cyclones Care” – to encourage and incentivize compliance with mitigation strategies on campus and in the community.

If You Are Sick, Stay Home

If you are sick or experiencing symptoms, please do not come to work or class. **No one is expected to work or attend class if they are sick.** You should stay home, contact your supervisor or professor, [take care of yourself](#), and seek medical care if necessary.

- Faculty and staff who have symptoms or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 should contact their primary health care provider to inquire about testing. Thielen Student Health Center and the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory are developing plans for testing to be available on campus for faculty and staff.
- Faculty or staff who test positive for COVID-19 should report that information to Thielen Student Health Center [using this form](#). Employees can return to work once they meet all of the following criteria:
 - No fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fever) AND
 - Other symptoms have improved (for example, cough or shortness of breath have improved) AND
 - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- Thielen Student Health Center is providing [free testing for students](#) who are enrolled in summer courses or registered for fall. There are no testing costs for students who meet Iowa Department of Public Health testing criteria.
 - Students who test positive for COVID-19 and the test was done off-campus should report that information to Thielen Student Health Center [using this form](#).

Thielen Student Health Center is working with campus partners on a comprehensive plan for COVID-19 testing and contact tracing, which helps identify others who may have been exposed. We will share more information about this plan soon.

Wellness Support and New Mental Health Training

We recognize this time of uncertainty and change continues to cause anxiety and stress. Please prioritize your health and safety, including your mental health. We have a number of resources available through [ISU WellBeing](#), [Keep Community. Stay Informed. Be Well.](#), and [ISU Extension and Outreach](#).

Additionally, a new training soon will be available to enhance mental health literacy. We strongly recommend students, faculty, and staff take the Kognito Mental Health Training. The training will be available for students in Canvas and for faculty and staff on Learn@ISU, beginning July 1. Student mental health is a growing concern on college campuses, including here at Iowa State. Our goal is to ensure that ISU students and employees know

about and receive the mental health care they need to be well and succeed. More information about the training will be provided soon.

Campus-Wide Effort

As members of the Iowa State Community, we all have a responsibility to protect our campus and community. Please uphold [ISU's Principles of Community](#) and do your part to show care and empathy as we work together to have a welcoming and inclusive campus for everyone.

Wendy Wintersteen
President