

July 23, 2020

Dear Iowa State Community,

As the campus population increases in the coming days with students arriving and more faculty and staff returning to their campus work locations, Iowa State University remains deeply committed to the health and safety of our community and creating a welcoming and inclusive environment.

All returning employees should complete the Learn@ISU online training course: [Returning to Iowa State](#). This training will take about 20 minutes and provides valuable information about physical distancing, face coverings, health monitoring, and keeping your workspace clean. One of the most important points is **stay home if you are sick**.

I also want to share with you additional details and decisions about our plans to prioritize health and safety, including testing, isolation and quarantine, contact tracing, face coverings, and community expectations.

Testing for students, faculty, and staff

All students living in on-campus housing – residence halls and apartments – are required to be tested for COVID-19 before move-in. This impacts about 9000 students. They received an [email](#) earlier this week outlining the steps for move-in day, including instructions to report first to Lied Rec for testing and to pick up their keys. The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory will process the samples and provide results within 24 hours.

Move-in dates have been expanded and staggered over a two-week period (Aug. 3 – Aug. 16) to support physical distancing.

Testing is available through Thielen Student Health Center (TSHC) for any student, faculty, or staff member who is experiencing [symptoms of COVID-19](#), as indicated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), or has been in contact with someone who has a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19. Students, faculty, and staff should fill out the [pre-testing questionnaire](#) and call Thielen Student Health Center at 515-294-5801 to schedule a test.

For those who do not meet the testing guidelines for TSHC, other testing options are available through [Test Iowa](#). We have been supportive of our community partners' efforts to request a Test Iowa Clinic in Story County, and we are hopeful that request will be fulfilled.

Isolation following a positive test result for COVID-19

Any student, faculty, or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 needs to follow [CDC guidelines for isolation](#) with or without symptoms.

Students living in the residence halls will isolate in Linden Hall, or they may choose to complete isolation at home with their family.

Students living in university apartments or off-campus housing can isolate there, or at home with their family.

Many classes will have an online option for students to stay current with their course work during isolation as they are able. For classes that do not, instructors may provide alternative options for classes and assignments that are missed.

If an employee receives a positive test result from their medical provider or through Test Iowa, they need to self-report using this [form](#). Self-reporting is a safe and confidential process.

Quarantine following exposure to COVID-19

Any student, faculty, or staff member notified through contact tracing of exposure to a positive COVID-19 case needs to follow [CDC guidelines for quarantine](#).

Students living in the residence halls will quarantine in Oak or Elm Hall, or they may choose to complete quarantine at home with their family.

Students living in university apartments or off-campus housing can quarantine there, or at home with their family.

Students will be contacted by a member of Iowa State's Public Health team if they need to quarantine because a classmate or instructor has tested positive. Only students who had close contact with a classmate or instructor who tested positive for COVID-19 – as determined through contact tracing – need to quarantine.

Many classes will have an online option for students to stay current with their course work during quarantine as they are able. For classes that do not, instructors may provide alternative options for classes and assignments that are missed.

Contact tracing

Contact tracing is a process used to trace and monitor people who have been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. Close contact, which would require you to quarantine, is defined as being closer than 6 feet to someone for more than 15 minutes, with or without a face covering.

We expect all students, faculty, and staff to cooperate with our contact tracing process. Sharing the names of colleagues or friends you were in contact with at work, the gym, or gatherings will not get anyone in trouble. This process is important to prevent the

unnecessary spread of COVID-19 and ensure those who were exposed can get the support and resources they may need during quarantine.

Face coverings and community expectations

Cloth face coverings and/or face shields are required anytime you are in the presence of others and anywhere you can't maintain a 6-foot distance from someone – indoors or outdoors. Campus buildings will have signage to remind you. It's a good idea to keep a face covering handy at all times, and make sure to wear it correctly – over your mouth and nose.

The Dean of Students Office, working with the Academic Continuity Workgroup, has developed a set of [community expectations](#), which provides guidance for handling issues of non-compliance. Faculty and staff should contact their own supervisor when the situation involves another staff or faculty member. Modeling appropriate behavior and creating positive reinforcement are the best methods to encourage compliance.

Cyclones Care

Iowa State University has always been a caring community, but now more than ever, we must show our caring every day, in every situation. Cyclones Care consists of the four behaviors – *physical distancing, face coverings, hand washing, and staying home if you're sick* – that will make a difference in protecting the health and well-being of our campus and community. Please visit the [Cyclones Care website](#) to learn how you can support this campaign.

The campaign also offers a variety of [signage options](#) for use in university facilities. Please contact your [building supervisor](#) to coordinate internal signage for your area.

Decisions rooted in science; ongoing communication

Finally, we know you may still have questions and concerns about the fall semester. This remains a rapidly evolving situation, and we continue to make decisions rooted in guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, Iowa Department of Public Health and other science-based sources. We will continue to provide you with current information as soon as it is available. Please check the [COVID-19 safety page](#) often for updated information and send your questions to COVID-19@iastate.edu.

Wendy Wintersteen
President