

July 29, 2020

Dear Iowa State Faculty and Staff:

I am writing with an update on three important actions, and to share my deep appreciation.

Response Teams

First, while there has been an extraordinary amount of work done to prepare for the fall semester, we know more questions and challenges will emerge. We are establishing College/Unit specific Response Teams to assist you with issues, for example, the need for additional classroom signage or more face coverings, or questions about the process if a positive COVID-19 case is reported in your class or department. Faculty and staff will be able to call a central number to request assistance, report a problem, or share an idea of a creative, innovative approach to a recent challenge.

Details about the Response Teams, including team members, the 24/7 contact number, and a webpage will be announced next week. An overall University Response Team is also being established to coordinate university-wide actions. These Response Teams will work closely with the Emergency Operations Center and the Fall Planning Executive Committee.

COVID-19 Fall Semester 2020 Website

Second, as we strive to communicate frequently and in different venues, we have heard that we need to increase our communications and consolidate them. A new [COVID-19 fall semester 2020 website](#) has been created that consolidates the numerous details associated with the fall semester.

Public Health Coordinator

Finally, Dr. Kristen Obbink, DVM, has been named the university's COVID-19 public health coordinator through the fall semester. Dr. Obbink is a member of the Public Health Team that is co-chaired by Brian Vanderheyden, Student Wellness Director and Dr. Betsy Matos, Biosafety Officer in Environmental Health & Safety. The Public Health Team has 28 members from units across the university.

A Campus-Wide Effort; Thank You!

I am deeply grateful for the excellent work over the past three months of the Fall Planning Executive Committee, chaired by John Lawrence, Vice President for Extension and Outreach. In addition, the Academic Continuity Work Group, led by Associate Provost Ann Marie VanDerZanden, has played an essential role. This group has reviewed critical data and made dozens of decisions that were the basis for the final plans.

Our planning efforts would not have been successful without the engagement of our Faculty Senate, the Department Chairs Council, P&S Council, Student

Government, and Graduate and Professional Student Senate. Individual input has also been critically important. We appreciate everyone who has shared their ideas, innovations, and concerns.

Thank you for your time, energy, and ingenuity as we collectively prepare for the start of the fall semester.

Sincerely,

Wendy Wintersteen
President

*P.S., Please join me and other senior leaders tomorrow (Thursday, July 30) from 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. for the **fourth virtual Town Hall meeting with faculty and staff**. This will be an opportunity to discuss the university's fall plans and preparations in advance of the start of the fall semester. Join via Webex Events with this URL:*

<https://isuevents.webex.com/isuevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=e9aec08a6d9cf798b7ce1203434e908df>