

August 5, 2020

Dear Iowa State Community,

With health and safety as our number one priority, Iowa State University continues to make decisions based on the best public health and science-based guidance available. We also deeply value feedback from our campus community. Consequently, our fall planning is an ongoing and iterative process.

Face Covering Policy Revised

We have again revised Iowa State's face covering policy to more clearly prescribe when cloth face coverings are required, including indoors in all university buildings and outdoors in the presence of others; when face shields are an acceptable alternative; the few allowable exceptions for face coverings; and when they are not required. Please review the revised [face covering policy](#). It is also available on the [Fall Semester 2020 website](#).

We ask that students, faculty, and staff approach enforcement of this policy with kindness and care. Please refer to the [community expectations](#) developed by the Dean of Students Office and the Academic Continuity Workgroup. Importantly, the best method to encourage compliance is for each of us to commit to modeling appropriate behavior and creating positive reinforcement.

Student Accommodations

Students who are at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19 and students who cannot tolerate wearing a face covering due to underlying medical or mental health conditions should carefully review the options presented on the [Student Accessibility Services website](#). For additional questions, please call 515-294-7220 or email accessibility@iastate.edu.

COVID-19 Response Teams for Faculty and Staff

Last week, I shared we were establishing College/Unit-specific Response Teams and an overall University Response Team to assist faculty and staff with emerging issues. I am pleased that Frank Peters has agreed to chair the University Response Team, and representatives have been named for all of the college and unit-specific teams.

Beginning August 11, faculty and staff can call the 24/7 Response Team helpline at **1-800-447-1985** to request assistance, report a problem, or share a solution. More details about the teams and additional contacts are available on the [Response Team webpage](#).

Cyclones Care Signage and Material

I am grateful for the expertise and creativity of the Cyclones Care campaign team. The signage, videos, and social media posts are critically important to educate our campus and community about the [four key behaviors](#) to mitigate the risk of COVID-19.

The campaign team worked very hard to create a high-quality [collection of building signage and digital materials](#), including editable PDFs that can be customized for different spaces. Please do not develop your own material. Using Cyclones Care will ensure a consistent, clear, and unifying message.

I appreciate the great job of colleges, units, and departments in adapting their spaces for our Cyclones Care mitigation strategies. I want to recognize the staff at Parks Library for their initiative to work with Risk Management on creative ways to modify the variety of spaces in the library. You can see examples of their efforts at the bottom of the [Campaign Materials](#) webpage. We appreciate this commitment to health and safety in what is traditionally one of the busiest facilities on campus.

Return to Regular Building Hours

Campus buildings that must be open for fall semester should have resumed their regular building hours this week. Some buildings that do not need to be accessed by students or the public may remain locked as staff continue to work remotely. If visitors need to access a locked office, please call ahead to make an appointment.

Student Testing and Move-In

I want to recognize and thank the Thielen Student Health Center team, the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, the Emergency Operations Center, the Public Health team, the Department of Residence, and hundreds of campus volunteers for their extraordinary efforts during student testing at Lied Rec and university housing move-in. The first few days have gone smoothly, and I appreciate the teamwork, careful coordination, and long hours to make this a successful process for more than 9,000 students and their families. A few more volunteers are needed to fill [remaining shifts](#) next week, so please consider.

Ongoing Planning; Keeping You Informed

As I mentioned, our fall planning is an iterative process as we respond to changing circumstances. Our Public Health team has done a nice job of condensing key topics into an [eye-catching webpage](#) that complements the [Fall Semester 2020 website](#) to help you easily understand the changes, requirements, and modifications for fall. Please take a look, and thank you for doing everything you can to help keep our campus safe and healthy.

Wendy Wintersteen
President