

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

Next week begins the holiday season and the next five weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day are often defined by special foods, traditions and gatherings. Now we have to ask ourselves, "what does gathering in 2020 look like"? It certainly be different for everyone and every personal situation. However, we cannot forget the importance of building memories with loved ones, even if means holding a virtual party or sitting down and sharing your turkey dinner over Microsoft Teams or Zoom with family and friends in different cities or states.

For the continued safety and health of our campuses and clinics, the Midwestern University Response Team remains in close consultation with local and state agencies. Yesterday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a new advisory memorandum, which included additional recommendations to avoid public transportation, gathering in crowded areas, and limiting travel if at all possible. The advisory clearly recommended avoiding "mixed household" gatherings and keeping your Thanksgiving celebration to immediate family only. The CDC advisory highlights the need to take extreme caution over the Thanksgiving and winter holidays, knowing that the COVID-19 virus does not take a break from infecting more individuals.

The numbers of COVID-19 cases continue to increase around the country, and we as a community must do our part to contain the spread. Eight faculty and staff members have tested positive over the past week, five from the Downers Grove campus and three from the Glendale campus. Fourteen Glendale students tested and nine from the Downers Grove campus tested positive for COVID-19. We have not heard of any serious cases requiring hospitalization; however, a number of students have been quarantined due to possible exposure. We have revised our cloth face covering, Level 1 face mask policy and encourage all members of our community to review it at <http://online.midwestern.edu> .

New COVID-19 Protocols

- Since July when we implemented the Daily Health Screening over 425,000 have been completed by all of you. I thank you for remaining diligent in completing this important process honestly and accurately. The questionnaire will now be required of any visitor on campus; they will receive the Daily Health Screening when registering as a guest.
- On Monday, November 23, 2020 you will see revisions to the Daily Health Screening questionnaire. We have reordered, simplified and clarified some of the questions to make the screening more accurate and easier to use. For example, if you answer "yes" to the question "Have you or someone in your household been in contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19?" Now you will be asked additional questions to determine if that close contact meets the CDC definition. We are hopeful that this will eliminate some questions and assist you in accurately completing this important daily process.
- Students on external clinical rotations must complete the Daily Health Screening even if they are not on one of our campuses, so we can monitor their health status.
- We will be keeping the Daily Health Screening and regular reminders open throughout the holidays. While we all enjoy a well-deserved break over the holidays, our COVID-19 Team will continue to monitor cases.
- On November 30, 2020, the beginning the Winter Quarter for most classes, we will be enforcing compliance with our health screening policy before any student can be granted admission to the University Testing Centers. As a student badges into the Testing Center, the system will now check to ensure that the health screen has been completed and passed before the Testing

Center personnel will assign a seat. Any student who has not completed and passed the daily health screen will need to step out, complete their screen, and then re-enter. It is strongly recommended the Daily Health Screening is completed before arriving on campus.

New Student Benefit

- After our Thanksgiving break, all students will now receive free, black and white print or document copies when using the “Go Print” stations on campus. To take advantage of this new benefit, just use your Midwestern University ID badge to print or copy as always, and you will receive a daily reimbursement back to your ID badge for any printing or copying the previous day, for a maximum of 100 free printed copies. You can monitor your funds on the ID badge at <http://online.midwestern.edu>.

5-point Plan for Diversity and Inclusion

- Through the generosity of the Response Team and members of the faculty and staff of Midwestern University, we raised over \$80,000.00 to begin the Midwestern University Diversity Scholarship. 30 students on the Downers Grove campus and 40 students on the Glendale campus submitted applications to the campus Financial Aid Committees as many wonderful, qualified and worthy students applied for the new scholarships. After long and careful deliberation, I am pleased to announce the awardees of the 2020 Diversity Scholarship. Please join me in thanking all of our applicants for the scholarship program as we congratulate the following students.

Downers Grove Campus:

Ms. Courtney Marsh, Chicago College of Optometry, third year student

Mr. Joshua Jones, College of Health Sciences, Clinical Psychology Program, first year student

Glendale Campus:

Mr. Dajamen Mitchell, Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine, first year student and graduate of the Downers Grove Masters of Bio-Medical Sciences, Class of 2020.

Ms. Nakia Dean, College of Health Sciences, Cardiovascular Science Program, first year student.

- As a reminder, the College of Veterinary Medicine Student Association VOICE and the College of Veterinary Medicine Diversity Task Force are inviting faculty, staff and students to submit a piece of art that celebrates the diversity we see in our community.
- The Downers Grove College of Health Sciences Diversity Task Force has created a “Bridge of Inclusivity” poster board on the 2nd floor of Alumni Hall, and everyone is welcome to post a comment or small picture to begin a conversation regarding who we are and who we aspire to be at Midwestern University.

I once read: “Gratitude is the memory of the heart.” All of us must encourage our hearts to remember the kindness we receive every day, the loved ones that support us and all the blessings around us and yes, we will continue to “gather” as we celebrate Thanksgiving 2020 style.

Be well.

Dr. G.

Kathleen H. Goepfinger, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Midwestern University.