

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

Everyone in our country has been anchored in place for many weeks. For many of us, reality has shifted. The day is coming, however, when we will begin moving past our current comfort zones, and begin walking into a new normal that will bring some of you back to our Glendale campus on a planned and gradual basis, in just a few short weeks. While some of you may be concerned about the risk of returning to campus, the University is implementing new processes and policies that will assure you a safe return.

I see our planned return similar to wading into the shallow end of a lake before embarking on a long swim. We will be taking small steps, alike to dipping our toe into uncharted waters as we begin by bringing more patients back and seeing more activity on campus. While some of you are ready to cannonball back into a sea of activity, I am implementing a slower and more methodical start of our next phase. Much of our plan will be impacted by how we carefully plan for social distancing in our facilities and implement the use of face masks.

The COVID-19 Response Team met today, May 14, 2020 to continue discussing the operational plans needed to begin bringing you back to campus. Our plans focus on the June 1, 2020 date for the Glendale campus community. Our Downers Grove clinic operations are planning to open on June 8, 2020 as the Illinois Executive Order provides guidance to have clinics and health care facilities open.

#### Cloth face covering and Level 1 face masks

- We have formally adopted the Midwestern University Facial Covering policy that is in effect during the pendency of a public health emergency as declared by the federal government, and the State of Illinois, and the State of Arizona. The policy is designed to protect everyone as we return to campus; it is approved for the safety and well-being of all members of our community.
- A clean cloth face covering, that covers both your nose and mouth must be worn on campus when individuals are in close contact, less than six feet from your colleagues and students. Areas of concern are common areas, such as hallways, libraries, elevators, and student lounges. Everyone is responsible for washing and maintaining a clean mask.
- Each full-time and part-time member of the faculty and staff and students will be provided one cloth face mask. These will be distributed to Academic Deans and Department Managers by Human Resources and Student Services. If you already have purchased or made a face mask, you are allowed to wear this as long as it abides by our professional dress standards.
- Faculty, staff and students with religious, cultural, or disability-related reasons for not using a cloth face covering must meet with Human Resources or the Dean of Students.
- Clinic faculty and staff will be provided a disposable face mask, often referred to as a surgical or procedural mask, to be worn in the clinic settings. Depending on the level of risk exposure to patients with serious infections, the Clinic Director or rotation preceptor may require students to wear a specific type mask.

I imagine you are weary hearing about our many discussions regarding social distancing and face masks, but these are two critical safety measures that Midwestern University is implementing for the safety of our community.

This last week has proven that preparing to bring more of you back to campus is a difficult and complex task. But be assured that as we prepare to welcome more of you back, plans are being developed for every department, clinic and simulation center on campus. I know that our un-anchoring from the temporary working at home arrangements, implemented in March, 2020, may be challenging, but we need to steadily look toward the future when our students are back on campus.

Midwestern University will step bravely forward into a landscape that we have not seen before as we learn to move beyond the shore.

Be well.

Dr. G.