

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

I strongly believe in the power of gratitude. Over the course of the past seven weeks, I have felt especially blessed by the kindness of others. We have all been surrounded by individuals who care about each other and about our students and campus community. I have also been touched by the generosity of community organizations and our alumni that have reached out to help our faculty, staff and students.

Midwestern University received a donation from the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, an international humanitarian organization with a branch location in Darien, Illinois. The organization contacted us with a generous gift of face masks and shields. The organization's leader shared with us that she had worked with our students in the past and has great respect for the mission of Midwestern University. I have always shared with the campus community that our best ambassadors are our students, as highlighted by this wonderful gift.

An alumna from our Glendale Campus Physician Assistant Program, Class of 2004, Sondra Andersen, PA-C, began a COVID-19 Mask Project to provide frontline workers with homemade masks. By enlisting other health care providers, they have gone into rapid production and have already distributed 451 face masks to Midwestern University and other health care institutions. As a Summa Cum Laude graduate, Sondra "Sam", always excelled. She continues to do so today.

The COVID-19 Response Team met today, May 7, 2020 to continue planning and implementing a gradual reopening of both campuses and clinics.

Announcements

- As previously noted, the use of cloth face masks on campus is now required. Faculty, staff and students have asked very relevant questions regarding if they have to wear it all day, and under what circumstances it must be used. Following the standards set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "a cloth face covering should be worn wherever people are in a community setting, especially in situations where you may be near other people. These settings include grocery stores and pharmacies. These face coverings are not a substitute for social distancing. Cloth face coverings are especially important to wear in public in areas of widespread COVID-19 illness."
- Members of the Midwestern University community should use this guideline in areas when you are standing in line and cannot remain six feet apart. The cloth face mask should be washed daily and whenever it becomes moist or wet. We are taking your safety seriously when asking that cloth face masks be worn in public areas.
- Cloth face coverings are not needed in circumstances when you are working alone in your office, walking outside and separated by six feet, in the car if you are by yourself, or in a clinic or reception area if you are separated by a Plexiglass barrier to patients or other guests. In some campus offices, a visual line will be delineated to keep the six feet of separation very clear to others entering the office.
- Clinic face mask policies will vary depending on your position. Those in patient care roles will be issued disposable face masks.

- The University has ordered all the Personal Protective Equipment needed to begin resuming normal operations once Executive Orders are lifted. Many items are in short supply and we are monitoring the availability of our orders on a daily basis. Our plan is to have an adequate supply once you begin returning to campus.

I am very grateful for the gifts from the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation and our alumni. They are graciously giving their time and efforts to help others. I am grateful for the faculty and staff that have worked hard during this public health crisis, and I am grateful to the students who have entrusted us with their education and careers. The power of your thoughtful acts, wishes, messages and kindness is a blessing to me each day.

Be well.

Dr. G.