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Kettering University Coronavirus 2019 Pandemic Documents

8-3-2020

August 3, 2020: Covid-19 Campus Update

Kettering University

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August 3, 2020

An update from the COVID-19 Response Team

The COVID-19 Response Team continues to work with Genesee County Public Health Department and with the Office of the President to adapt to the situation as it evolves and to provide our community with the most current information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The University is fully committed to the health and safety of its entire community, and will continue to closely monitor this situation and any others that impact our campus.

The quarantine of two Greek houses instituted earlier this month has been lifted. Testing of all residents of both living groups provided by the University on July 28 returned negative results in all cases. Additional testing offered to all Greek residents on July 30 also produced all negative results.

The University commends the leadership and membership of the two quarantined greek organizations, Sigma Chi and Alpha Phi, for the proactive and significant ways in which they acted voluntarily when exposure of their communities to the coronavirus was suspected. The University is proud of the serious and consistent way that our off-campus and Greek life residents are implementing safety measures and distancing guidelines in their houses as well as the way that all of our students, faculty, and staff are complying with our safety protocols when on campus.

Additional testing dates will be scheduled during the term, as they are details will be shared with the entire community via email and in the University's internal newsletter, *Bulldog Weekly*. Faculty, staff, or students wishing to request a test outside of regularly scheduled dates may do so by contacting the Wellness Center, employees should contact Human Resources. Current campus status and case reports may always be found at kettering.edu/covid-19/case-reports.

Additional recent updates communicated directly with students and employees last week include:

Classroom Safety and Face-to-Face Instruction

At the beginning of the Summer Term, the University implemented a last-name based rotating protocol for face-to-face instructions. The purpose of this protocol was to guarantee most students would have an in-person learning experience while ensuring the safety of our faculty and students. After two weeks, some students have elected to take all classes virtually. After careful assessment of current classroom capacities, the University has decided to lift the restriction of this last-name based schedule and allow all students to participate in-person classes under the following conditions:

- Students **must** obtain permission from the course instructor to attend all in-person sessions.

- All classrooms **must not exceed their capacities.**
 - The requirements of wearing face coverings (masks, face shields, etc.) and maintaining social distancing do apply to classroom activities and instruction. Therefore, **all faculty and students must wear a face mask or face shield and maintain social distancing during class instructions.** *(Note: This message has been communicated directly to all students via email from Academic Success Center).*
 - **The University has received confirmation from the State of Michigan that the “social gatherings of 10 people or less” rule outlined in a recent executive order by the Governor only applies to indoor social activities. This restriction does not apply to classes, sports practices or other academic related activities.** There are no restrictions or size limits on academic activities.
 - The requirements of wearing face coverings (masks, face shields, etc.) and maintaining social distancing do apply to classroom activities. Therefore, **all faculty and students must wear face coverings and maintain social distancing during class instructions.**
 - For more information on the Governor’s executive order related to face masks, click [here](#).
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Travel/Study Abroad

- **Effective July 28, 2020 and until further notice, students and employees who choose to travel to another state in the U.S. with a COVID-19 positive testing rate of 10% or higher on a seven-day rolling average must take one of two safety measures prior to returning to campus,** either: (1) self-quarantine for 14 days without symptoms of COVID-19 arising, or (2) self-quarantine for a minimum of 7 days and then be tested for COVID-19 with a negative test result. To determine the positive testing rate for a given state, the University will utilize the data supplied daily by the John Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center through its website link ["Testing Trends Tool."](#) If the state traveled to is shown to have a positive testing percentage of 10% or higher on the day of return, students and/or employees will have to take one of the two safety measures outlined above before returning to campus. During any quarantine period, employees will need to move to working remotely, and students will be required to take courses virtually (all are being offered via livestream). Employees with questions can contact HR, students should speak to the Wellness Center.
 - After much deliberation and careful review of the current situation in Europe and globally, it has been determined that it is in the best interest of the students to **cancel study abroad for the Fall 2020 term**. Students enrolled in our Fall 2020 programs were notified of this decision last week. The decision to cancel the European and South Korean programs is based on the University's risk management policy, which includes the cancellation of programs in countries that have been identified by the CDC as a Level 3 combined with other indicators, such as State Department travel warnings, support and services available at host institutions, ease of travel, and other pertinent decision points. The Office of International Programs (OIP) is looking at the option of offering one or two online classes through host institutions. Students can email studyabroad@kettering.edu with any questions and to schedule a virtual meeting to discuss options.
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Stay Updated

If cases of COVID-19 are identified within the campus community, the University is

using protocols outlined in the [Return to Campus Playbook](#) to identify potential exposure, to contact trace, and to quarantine impacted individuals. (The Playbook and other updates are available at kettering.edu/covid-19).

Due to privacy and other concerns, not all details of the University's response to a particular incident will be made public, but we are committed to providing our community with timely and current information as appropriate regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on our campus.

The University's [Safe Return to Campus Guidelines for Students & Employees](#) information sheet available on our website describes requirements and critical safety measures that are required of everyone in the campus community during this time. Please review them regularly, as additions to the document are made regularly. Please email questions to covid-19@kettering.edu.

