

April 30, 2020

MSU Faculty and Staff:

As we approach the beginning of May, we wanted to provide some quick updates:

University Operations for May 1 – May 15:

We will continue operating May 1 – May 15 in our current status with a combination of remote work, rotations, and altering schedules. Vice presidents and direct presidential reports may continue to adjust where needed to fill each need.

Compensation and benefits for full-time employees remain in place during this time. If you feel that you are taking any true vacation and/or sick time for yourself, or to take care of a family member, we would ask that you use your ethical determination on how to register that appropriately.

Our spring semester ends May 8 and our two large spring Commencements have been rescheduled to December.

You may have seen on the news Governor Beshear providing guidance that everyone should begin to wear a face covering/mask while in public areas and around other people. This would likely begin around May 11 as some industries and professions in our state begin a phased reopening. We would encourage you over the next week or two to begin to think about how wearing one might work for you when you are in campus buildings and around other individuals on campus. As our campus approaches May 11, we would ask that those who are on campus, in buildings, and around others wear a mask appropriately. If you are in your office or work area alone with a door closed or significant distance from others, or working outside, a mask may be worn at your discretion.

There are a number of ways to go about obtaining a mask if you need one. You may wish to make your own at home so that it suits your need and comfort. If you make your own, you can use CDC guidance found online. Second, you may purchase them in a local store or online, subject to availability, or we also have them available for purchase in the MSU University Store. Lastly, if you do not wish to use one of the previous mentioned ways, you may obtain a mask from our Office of Facilities Management in the Rice Building front office between the hours of 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. each weekday.

Summer Camps:

Our working group on summer camps has met and we will be cancelling all residentially based summer camps for the remainder of the summer. We take great pride in hosting a number of these camps and are working with our funding partners to hopefully continue them next summer.

Looking Forward:

You are likely seeing in the news a number of industries and professions who have approved reopening dates starting in mid-May that are phased in over a number of weeks. All the universities in Kentucky have also recently begun having discussions with a number of agencies, authorizers, and with Governor Beshear.

As we get into mid-to-late May, we hope to provide some additional information about how we might begin our phases of bringing people back to campus in some areas. Once authorized, we would do so through careful consideration that takes into account each area, their function, continued health precautions, and other areas where we receive guidance.

Likewise, we are hopeful for a fall semester back on campus that has a number of precautions, options, and varied instructional deliveries. To this point also, we are having preliminary discussions with the appropriate agencies, authorizers, and the Governor.

Thanks for what you do to keep things moving forward and for your flexibility.

Jay Morgan
President