

July 22, 2020

**MSU Faculty and Staff:**

I know this communication comes very soon on the heels of a recent communication last week. However, we wanted to update you on a few items in light of new state-wide communications via a State Executive Order and Travel Advisory.

**New State-wide Executive Order:**

Prior to this week the limit for social gatherings was set at 50 or less individuals in one area. However, this week the Governor and the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services amended the Executive Order to require social gatherings to be lowered to 10 individuals or less. 'Social groups' include all MSU or MSU affiliated student clubs and organizations. MSU social groups are requested to plan their activities in groups of 10 or less, or in virtual mode until further guidance is provided. University band and athletics will plan their structured activities outside or in small groups of 10 or less.

This Order does not apply to academic credit bearing classrooms/labs/studios, and thus they may continue as scheduled.

**New Travel Advisory:**

The Governor and the Kentucky Department of Public Health has also issued a new travel advisory. This advisory recommends a 14-day self-quarantine for any travelers to nine states and one U.S. territory (Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Texas, Nevada, Idaho, Mississippi, South Carolina, Arizona, and Puerto Rico as a territory).

Presently, any out-of-state University travel must be approved by a Vice President until October 31, however, until the Governor lifts this new travel advisory no university-supported travel will be allowed to any of these states.

University students arriving to MSU from the listed states will also have to take precautions. Our Vice President for Student Affairs and team will be working on this.

University employees visiting these listed states on personal/vacation purposes are requested to contact your Vice President to work on a quarantine plan upon return. Based on this state-wide guidance employees planning to travel to these destinations would be wise to reconsider their travel plans -- as a 14-day quarantine this close to the beginning of the fall semester would pose difficulties.

**Fall Convocation:**

As a part of this new guidance our Fall Convocation(s) planned for each division/unit on the lawn in front of the Library will be cancelled for now. We are evaluating other options and will provide more communication on how best, or when, to host them soon.

Thanks for your patience as we work through the assorted start of the fall semester.