

August 19, 2020

MSU Faculty and Staff:

As we enter the first week of the semester we wanted to provide you with a few quick updates:

Dates:

September 7 - Labor Day – MSU will be closed and no classes will meet. Food remains available for students.

Family Weekend:

Our traditional Family Weekend has been moved from September to February. Families are still free to come to campus/town to visit with their student(s), however our formal events around this weekend have been postponed. There will be messaging going out to students on this soon.

Fall Athletics:

Both the OVC and the PFL, our two athletic conferences, have opted to push fall competitive sports to spring, or a time after the fall semester in which one or more can be played safely. This obviously alters some schedules along the way on several other affiliated events – specifically around Homecoming and other fall campus venues. We are hopeful that our environment improves and we can find a way to play one or more of them later this year.

Homecoming:

Our traditional Homecoming Weekend of October 16-18 is under review by the offices/units that have a significant role in it. At this point, we anticipate that much, if not all of it, will move to a virtual format. More on this to come.

Residence Halls:

As of this week we are around 2,540+/- students residing in our residence halls. We intentionally lowered the overall density of the halls by a few hundred to take some residency pressure off campus.

Digital Initiative:

You might recall at Convocation we mentioned a number of digital initiatives. Please remember that if you are still receiving a paper employee payroll or travel reimbursement check, you need to sign up for direct deposit. Please see the attached file on Self-Service Direct Deposit Instructions for setting up your banking information via self-service at the <https://my.moreheadstate.edu> portal.

Effective September 15, all employee payroll, student employee payroll, and employee travel reimbursement will be through direct deposit. Employees with legal rulings requiring them to receive paper checks should also contact the Payroll Office at (606) 783-2145 to discuss options.

If you are in need of obtaining a checking or savings account, a number of local banks offer free options and you may select your bank of your choice.

Travel:

Our travel restrictions using University funds are still in effect until October 31. All out-of-state travel must be approved in writing by a Vice President prior to travel and the travel should be for emergency or urgent business only. In-state travel using University funds is allowable.

Education Abroad is paused until October 31, and pending review closer to time.

Number of Co-19 cases Since mid-July:

To provide our campus community with a general feel of the number of Co-19 positive cases, we wanted to relay a few notes below. The first, as our community tracks the number of cases, it is important to note that the Rowan County Health Department is the official entity which maintains the count of positive cases of individuals living within our county. Our campus-based cases are included in any official county-wide data provided by the Health Department.

Related to our campus, from mid-July until late yesterday, we have had 4 positive cases of students residing on-campus and 10 positive cases of students residing off-campus. The majority of the on-campus cases elected to return home to isolate. Also, during the same general time period we have had 1 faculty and 2 staff members test positive.

Co-19 Random Testing:

Beginning within in the next week and moving through the following weeks until Labor Day, we will be asking employees in some of our areas of campus which have a high contact rate with other individuals to be randomly tested for Co-19. This will be voluntary. The goal for this is to have continual screening and add yet another layer of precaution.

Our Goal:

The semester is off to a good start and our goal is to land on November 24 – the end of the Fall Semester. We have been meeting with student groups across campus asking them to be on the same team and help us get there. I hope that you will talk to those around you, including students in your classes, about the same team mentality – it will take everyone being on the same page to create a stable environment and get us to November.

Thank you,

Jay Morgan
President