

Student Communication Reminder and Updates for COVID-19 Safety and Health, August 24, 2020

Dear Students,

Welcome to the fall 2020 semester. It has been a very positive first week of classes, and it is good to have our students back!

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, the College must flex and continually reexamine our processes to align with the CDC guidelines and Bon Secours Mercy Health policies and procedures to ensure a safe campus community. With the goal of providing you with a quality education, several measures were put into place that allow us to offer a hybrid model of remote and in-person instruction to include practicums in a health care setting. This included strategically designing and scheduling your courses so that small clinical groups can remain together, limiting your exposure and thereby reducing the potential for a widespread outbreak of COVID-19 within our community. This is an important part of keeping you healthy and safe during the academic year. As we've seen, gathering in large groups outside of a core circle can lead to exposure to the virus. This is why we limited practicum groups to no more than 10 students. This pro-active measure extends to our non-academic lives. It's our collective responsibility as a community to minimize our exposure to keep our campus safe and our College open. In keeping with these safety and health guidelines, this communication will provide you with some reminders:

Reminders:

- Please refer to the [Coronavirus section](#) of the BSMCON website for updates.
- Please continue to self-monitor for symptoms and temperature $\geq 100^\circ$ on a daily basis. If you have symptoms or a fever, do not come to campus and inform your faculty member(s).
- Maintain a minimum six feet of social distancing, wear a mask, and do not congregate with others. Please remember this especially if you are on campus for labs or simulation.
- There is to be no congregating outside of the simulation lab during breaks, and lockers are not be used.
- You may bring a covered beverage into the simulation lab with you to be kept on your table.
- Please remember to sanitize your work-spaces before and after using them with disinfectant wipes.
- Food and drinks are not permitted in the computer lab.
- Everyone must use the front entrance of the College. The side entrance may be used to exit, but no one is permitted to enter through the side entrance. Please do not hold the door open for someone to enter if exiting through the side entrance.

The College re-opening plan that was submitted to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) has been updated to reflect alignment with CDC guidelines and Bon Secours Mercy Health procedures, and can be located on the College website.

Please be sure to check your emails regularly for further updates. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dean Sorbello and Associate Dean Perkins