

Colleagues,

Spring Break is around the corner. As you make plans, I hope you will continue to put your health and safety first. We're not out of the woods just yet in terms of COVID-19. How you spend your time off will impact what happens here on campus when you return.

It's critical that you continue to take all precautions. Wear a mask when around people. Practice social distancing and good hand hygiene. Case counts on campus remain relatively low, despite higher numbers in the larger community. That's a tribute to your commitment to this campus community.

Mary Bucher, assistant to the chancellor for Public Health, has encouraged us to review [CDC guidelines](#) prior to traveling. **We will host an on-campus COVID-19 testing clinic on Monday, March 15 at the Spartan Rec Center.** The clinic, free to employees and students, will run from 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. No appointment will be necessary, and we hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to test following the break.

Please remember that if you should receive a positive test result during Spring Break, or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, you should not return to campus. Instead, please contact Health Services at 864-503-5191. Again, masks and social distancing have been proven to be most effective in protecting yourself and others from COVID-19.

We will continue to keep you informed about the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine. I believe that most faculty and staff will become eligible over the next few weeks. We will continue to work closely with our partners at the Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System to ensure that our frontline employees are prioritized for vaccination. Please refer to the [DHEC website](#) for detailed information about South Carolina's eligibility schedule.

Thank you for persevering through this most unusual year; I appreciate your dedication and resilience. Enjoy this well-deserved break. We look forward to finishing the semester strong.

Sincerely,



J. Derham Cole, Jr.  
Interim Chancellor

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***Up* is where we live.**