

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: A Message From the Interim Chancellor
Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 5:15:50 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)



May 6, 2020

Dear Campus Community,

University of South Carolina President Bob Caslen shared an update with the Columbia campus today regarding their projected plans for fall. Likewise, USC Upstate leadership has spent the last several weeks developing a plan for returning to our campus, one that serves our unique student population and community well.

The health and safety of our campus community is our top priority. As we continue to address COVID-19 and its impact on higher education across the nation, we are reviewing many plans and considering a number of measures in connection with a return to normal operations. As we continue to study data specific to the Upstate region, we will consider a number of measures, all of which can be adjusted as more data become available.

We have developed a plan that we are calling “Safe Start.” The next steps in our decision-making process will include an analysis of:

- Potentially phasing in a return to campus and in-person teaching, including maintaining smaller class sizes;
- Increasing the number of classes available online or through blended teaching;
- Reduced density in on-campus housing;
- Accommodating students who may need to be isolated due to COVID-19;
- Investing in testing and equipment, working proactively to prevent spread of the virus and help ensure we can identify quickly students, faculty or staff who exhibit symptoms of illness;
- Modifying our dining schedules and practices to reduce close contact among students and providing more options for “to-go” meals;
- Preparing and sharing widely campaigns designed to educate the campus community about social distancing and other safety protocols.

We will continue to work closely with state and federal health organizations and plan to announce definitive plans in the next few weeks. Our goal is to provide an exceptional college experience despite the challenges this pandemic has posed, and we look forward to working with you over the summer to address any questions you may have.

Please look for a more formal announcement from us soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Derham Cole, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

J. Derham Cole, Jr.
Interim Chancellor

University of South Carolina Upstate

800 University Way | Spartanburg, SC 29303

Up is where we live.