

From: [Office of the Chancellor](#)
Subject: A Message From the Chancellor: COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Plan
Date: Thursday, July 30, 2020 4:21:22 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
Importance: High



Dear Campus Community,

As you may know, members of our leadership team have been working closely with our COVID-19 Response Team to develop a comprehensive plan for our return to campus this fall. The resulting [Campus Reopening and Risk Mitigation Plan](#) addresses almost every function on campus, from teaching technologies to health services to cleaning protocols.

This plan, which incorporates the ideals of the [Spartan Safe Start Plan](#) published earlier this summer, is intended to provide as much information as we have in terms of how we anticipate the ongoing COVID-19 crisis will impact classes, housing, dining and special events, including athletics. As articulated in the Safe Start Plan, we will continue to employ the latest data available to make decisions about how to progress through the fall semester—with the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff always our first priority.

The COVID-19 Response Team, co-chaired by Director of Health Services and Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Public Health, Mary Bucher, and Dr. Shirleatha Lee, dean of the Mary Black School of Nursing, will continue its work to keep us informed of updates around guidance provided by the nation's top public health experts. We are prepared to shift as conditions warrant. We look forward to welcoming students and faculty back to campus for both face-to-face and virtual teaching beginning on August 20, but will be ready to adjust our plans as needed to protect the health and safety of the campus community.

Over the summer, we installed new cameras in all of our classrooms to allow faculty to engage in real time with both students in the classroom and those who will learn from home. Our professors are prepared to deliver on our promise of education excellence, whether in person or remotely.

We will have fewer students living in our residence halls, approximately half the number we would normally house on campus. Classroom density, too, will be limited to approximately 50% capacity. We will host many more of our special events virtually. And we will work closely

with our student government and campus organizations to build promotional campaigns that are designed to reinforce the criticality of wearing face coverings, practicing social distancing and washing hands frequently. We have created a form for reporting [Unsafe Conditions](#) on campus, and we encourage you to let us know if you see something concerning.

We will host two virtual Town Halls next Wednesday, August 5, to address questions you may have about the Campus Reopen and Risk Mitigation Plan:

Faculty and Staff Town Hall

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

[JOIN Microsoft LIVE Event](#)

Student Town Hall

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

[JOIN Microsoft LIVE Event](#)

Please take some time to review the plan. Several members of the leadership team will be available during the Town Halls to answer your questions. Thank you!

Sincerely,



J. Derham Cole, Jr.
Interim Chancellor

University of South Carolina Upstate

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