

Oct. 28, 2020

Good afternoon,

This is the 11th week of the semester, and we all know this is a tense time of year. But we have also passed the two-thirds mark in the semester, we've had a beautiful fall season, and we have an important role to play in our nation's democracy coming up. Which is where I will begin my updates:

Election: Next Tuesday is Election Day, and early voting has already begun in the state of Maryland. I encourage all of you to make your voices heard at the ballot box. FSU will provide a shuttle to the Mountain Ridge High School polling place from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., leaving from the Pealer Performing Arts Center parking lot. (Facemasks required.) Visit www.frostburg.edu/BobcatsVote for more information. I have also attached a message about voting from Gov. Larry Hogan.

Civic engagement is one of FSU's values, and I'm proud to announce some national recognition for that value. *Washington Monthly* magazine listed us among the "[Best Colleges for Student Voting,](#)" with FSU falling in the top 20 nationwide.

COVID-19: I must stress again the importance of following health guidelines designed to prevent the spread of this virus: **Wear a mask. Keep your distance. Wash your hands. Monitor your symptoms and use the FSU [check-in portal](#).**

Earlier this semester we had the advantage of being in an area with a low incidence of the virus, but, as was expected by health officials, it is on the upswing in Allegany County. More time spent indoors with cooler weather and an understandable – though dangerous – weariness with restrictions makes for a bad combination for prevention. Please don't let your Halloween party or family gathering be the reason someone gets sick.

We anticipate adding two additional information reports in next week's COVID testing update – wastewater testing information and our "prevalence rate," the comparison of active COVID cases with the number of recovered cases. These are among the many [indicators](#) our steering committee has been monitoring throughout the semester, and have guided us in taking interim preventative measures, such as cluster testing and pausing activities among some athletics teams. All fall athletic teams will be finished with their activities this Friday.

Easing Stress: The end of the semester is a stressful time in any year. That sense has been heightened by concerns about COVID-19 coupled with the added rancor and angry exchanges that have come in this election season, layered with the backdrop of the struggle for social justice.

Students, make use of your advisors, counselors, academic assistance resources, your faculty and Student Affairs — and everyone should visit our resource listings for [students](#), [faculty](#) and [all employees](#). Please take care of yourselves.

Stay safe and well,

Ronald Nowaczyk, PhD
President

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You may also seek assistance by contacting:

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LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff:

Earlier this month, I encouraged Marylanders to make a plan to vote. As you may know, there are three ways to vote in Maryland, the first way was to request a mail-in ballot from the State Board of Elections or your local board by October 20th. If you have requested a mail-in ballot, I want to thank you for your forward thinking, if you were not able to request a mail-in ballot please see the following two options.

- **Early In-person Voting (Oct 26-Nov 2)**

Early voting will be held for 8 days and begin on October 26, 2020 through November 2, 2020. You can vote at any early voting center in the county you live in. To make in-person voting safe, voters will be asked to stay six feet apart and voting centers will limit the number of people inside at one time. We encourage Marylanders to vote at off-peak times to help promote physical distancing.

- **In-person voting on Election Day (Nov 3)**

On election day, November 3, approximately 315 vote centers will be open statewide, including the early voting centers. Voters can cast their vote at any vote center in their county of residence. Vote centers will be open from 7 am to 8 pm on election day. To make in-person voting safe, voters will be asked to stay six feet apart and voting centers will limit the number of people inside at one time. We encourage Marylanders to vote at off-peak times to help promote physical distancing.

No matter how you choose to vote in the 2020 general election, we are encouraging everyone to do so in the safest way possible. Don't wait—plan your vote today by visiting elections.maryland.gov/2020 to make sure that your voice is heard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Larry Hogan'.

Governor Hogan