

Aug. 26, 2020

Good afternoon,

This week's update contains a lot of important information. I hope you will take the time to read all of it.

Surveillance COVID Testing: As we have mentioned before, we will be conducting surveillance COVID testing throughout the semester. The first session, made up of a sample of students, faculty and staff, will be Tuesday, Sept. 1, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Lane Center Manicur Hall. (This is in addition to the separate testing of our student-athletes, as per NCAA guidelines.)

If you are selected for this testing, you will receive an email from FSU COVID testing <info@baseline.mail.campuslabs.com> with a link for you to register for a time slot. **This testing is mandatory.**

The results of this surveillance testing are among the risk indicators we will be examining to guide our decision-making throughout the semester. (More on those indicators appears below.)

COVID Indicators: FSU's response to the current novel coronavirus pandemic requires the ability to quickly absorb important research data and public health information, while using judgment under imperfect conditions to make decisions regarding the safety of students, faculty, and staff. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the University has operated by making decisions that have been informed by national, state and local health conditions, as well as guidance from Gov. Hogan and the USM. Both the Pandemic Response Plan and the Recovery Response Plan have utilized phased-in levels as an operational guide.

FSU will monitor several key COVID-19 indicators that may impact the local and institutional environment. These indicators have been adapted from [COVID-19 Planning Guide and Self-Assessment for Higher Education](#) (OpenSmartEDU, 2020). Correspondingly, each key COVID-19 indicator will have trigger metrics that will inform our decision-making regarding our institutional recovery response level. **These indicators include incidence and prevalence, positivity rate, case clustering from contact tracing, regional healthcare preparedness, testing capacity, health center capacity, quarantine/isolation capacity, adherence to public health protective factors, local conditions and state conditions.**

Frostburg State University's Pandemic Response Team will continuously monitor the key COVID-19 indicators to discern patterns of concern that would potentially trigger the raising or lowering of our institutional recovery response levels. In most instances, triggers will be evaluated in coordination with our director of health services, local health officials, key institutional stakeholders, and me. As there are 10 indicators, the Pandemic Response Team will consider positive or negative triggers of several key COVID-19 indicators that would prompt a recommendation to raise or lower the institutional recovery response level, unless the scope or intensity of at least one of the indicators would overwhelmingly initiate a high-level concern.

I will communicate any modifications in response levels to the University with a specific implementation plan.

CARES Act \$375 Fall Housing Disbursements Have Begun: Disbursements of the \$375 for the CARES Act Fall 2020 housing awards began on Monday, Aug. 24, from the FSU billing office. More than 1,300 awards have been made. Those who are receiving the payment electronically should receive their funds by the end of next week. For those receiving it by mail, it may take several weeks.

New applications will continue to be accepted and processed for Fall 2020 housing costs only. At this time there are no other CARES Act funds available for other COVID-related expenses. All residential AND off-campus students are eligible for \$375 from CARES Act funding towards their Fall 2020 housing costs. ALL AWARDS WILL BE MADE DIRECTLY TO THE STUDENT. Submit your information to the following links:

- Students living on campus for Fall 2020 (including Edgewood) – [apply at this link](#).
- Students living off campus for Fall 2020 – [apply at this link](#). Under “amount of funds you are requesting,” put “\$375.” In the “what kind of emergency” list, check “Housing.” List “Fall 2020 Housing Costs” in all of the required description sections.

YOU MUST APPLY TO RECEIVE THESE FUNDS. Students will be permitted to carry the \$375 balance on their accounts until after they receive their award.

Cordts PE Center Access: Please review the attached information regarding access to spaces and programs in the Cordts Physical Education Center. These spaces open for limited use to students, faculty and staff only, starting tomorrow, with significant restrictions designed to prevent the spread of coronavirus. All users must adhere to these new regulations.

E&HS Groundbreaking: On Friday, Aug. 28, at 11:30 a.m., we will hold a groundbreaking for the Education and Health Sciences Center, which is being built between the Cordts PE Center and the Lane University Center. Again, everyone is invited to attend in person (masked and socially distanced) or virtually at www.facebook.com/frostburgstatealumniassn.

Brownsville/Park Avenue Monument: We dedicated the monument yesterday that commemorates the largely African American community that was displaced as the University grew. If you haven't had a chance, I invite you to visit the monument in the Upper Quad and read about this community. You can also watch a recording of the ceremony at [this link](#). A number of former residents of the community and descendants of residents were present and participated.

Do Your Check-ins: Finally, this is a reminder for **everyone** to do their daily symptom check-in at the check-in site: www.frostburg.edu/checkin. This is a very important tool for us to monitor the overall health of the campus and provide us with an early alert to potential issues. Students, also be aware that faculty may ask students to display their “reduced risk” badge from the check-in site before any class session, and I urge faculty begin doing so if you have not already.

Thank you, and stay safe!

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