

COVID-19 PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

IMPORTANT UPDATES AUGUST 5, 2020 – PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY!

COMPS & NBE: A note for S3 students before I address the return to campus. S3 students will be released by Ms. Dutko to The Conference the week of August 10th to schedule their NBE. Don't forget that we are committed to supporting your success by offering a full NBE fee reimbursement (\$570.00) for any student who meets the criteria: you must have attended all of the review classes and pass both sections (Arts & Science) within 30 days of being released.

We have seen how hard each student has been studying and preparing by using the comps testing resource in preparation for the NBE, so we are extending access to the comps as a study resource until September 15th. Continue taking the comps to strengthen test taking skills and to identify any areas of weakness where you should focus extra study resources. Keep plugging away! We want to see your class set a record for the highest pass rate for first-time NBE takers (and we are ready to start writing your reimbursement checks!)

RETURN TO CAMPUS: We will welcome all students back to campus for classes starting August 24th. Schedules will be provided to you soon - keep an eye on your email for your schedule. Return to campus will be primarily seated classes but may include some distance learning if it becomes necessary.

Campus and safety protocols will be different. Wearing masks is mandatory. We will have a single direction traffic in the hallways. All students must use the main entrance to come into the building. The doors will be propped open before class to minimize the number of surfaces and handles that need to be touched. When you get inside, staff will meet you with COVID screening questions and to take your temperature. I recommend getting to campus at least 15 minutes prior to your first class each day to avoid a backup in the main entrance screening zone. Class start and stop times have been offset to minimize the number of students in motion at the same time. We ask that you exit the building immediately following your final class using the doors located in the lab hallway unless you are scheduled for CMP lab.

We have turned off the water fountains to minimize the spread of the virus. If you need water, I recommend bringing bottled water to school. Also, we have closed off the student lounge. There will be no eating in the building, to minimize the spread of the virus. The only exception to this rule will be students on their scheduled clinical lab days who must remain on campus all day. But generally, those students will be permitted to eat in the student lounge in the designated seating areas. The student lounge doors are not to be used to enter or leave the building to ensure foot traffic and exposure is minimized where lab students will eat.

Students will be asked to disinfect the classroom when departing for the day. The instructors will supervise and supply the items needed to disinfect. Students may continue to use the library for computer and printer access but are asked not to congregate and to maintain social distance.

We have determined the maximum number of students that can safely occupy each campus classroom. Classrooms A & B have been opened to allow more room to spread the desks out to a safe distance. As we return to campus, we will keep everyone informed of the new and potentially changing protocols.

Your compliance and support to enforce social distancing, hand washing, and disinfecting is paramount to maintaining a safe learning environment.

All students, whether out of state or local, should self-quarantine as best as possible for two weeks prior to the beginning of classes to best prevent potential exposure prior to returning to campus. Plan to quarantine August 10 – 24th. Exposure and the need to quarantine after the start of classes can quickly disrupt not only your academic progress, but potentially the entire student body and administration. Each one of us has an individual responsibility to protect the entire CCMS family!

FINAL THOUGHTS

- ✓ Continue to practice social distancing - avoid public spaces and gatherings as best as possible.
- ✓ Wear a facemask when exposed to any person with whom you do not live.
- ✓ Younger individuals are at significantly higher risk due to the desire to go out into public spaces and socialize with friends.
- ✓ Wash your hands regularly - avoid touching your face/mouth.
- ✓ Plan to self-quarantine to eliminate exposure risk and to identify any potential symptoms beginning August 10th until returning to campus.
- ✓ Practice compassion towards one another – we are all experiencing heightened levels of stress and trying our best to adapt seamlessly to the many changes in daily life.

This pandemic is not over. Each state's elected officials are taking steps to re-open their state while keeping you safe. You must do your individual part to help everyone remain healthy until a COVID-19 vaccine is produced and distributed. We know how stressful this is for everyone and know we will all benefit from the continued support of one other. We will get through this together and will take every precaution and measure to ensure CCMS is a virus free, safe environment for students, faculty, and staff. Decide to make a difference for good and govern yourself accordingly!

JACK E. LECHNER, JR., CFSP, CT
President & CEO