

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

IMPORTANT UPDATE DECEMBER 29, 2020 – PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY!

Return to Campus, January 4, 2021!

As we get ready to welcome everyone back to campus on January 4, 2021, I want you to know that we have been working diligently during the break to provide the safest environment possible for your return.

Our primary objective is the safety of the students, faculty, and staff. Our second objective is to keep everyone on track to earn their degrees on time so they can begin their career in the death care profession without delay.

Classrooms, auditorium, carpets, floors, restrooms, lab, and student lounge have all been cleaned and disinfected in preparation for your return. One-way traffic patterns will be enforced, and all water fountains have been turned off. Class times are staggered so that groups are not coming and going at the same time. You can do your part by remaining vigilant – wear a mask, stay out of crowds, stay home in preparation of returning, wash hands often, and continue to make the right choices.

We will continue to require that everyone wear a mask, enter through the main entrance, get a temperature check, and answer a few COVID-19 screening questions when entering the building.

We track the COVID-19 hospital admissions and deaths in Hamilton County every day. These lagging indicators provide the unbiased information that we need to make our decision on keeping the school open and everyone safe.

Should anyone become exposed and need to quarantine, we will accommodate your request to participate in class via distance learning until you can return. We will ask for a negative COVID-19 test before returning. You can obtain the test at a clinic of your choice or you can be tested here at CCMS.

We will be welcoming the incoming spring class on Monday the 4th. The best way to welcome them, as well as everyone, is for all of us to make the right choices in preparation for returning.

Keep wearing your masks, continue to social distance and wash hands often. As we approach New Year's Eve this year – let us all make the choice to avoid crowds and self-quarantine in preparation for coming to campus

By the end of the summer, we should be in a state of COVID decline as herd immunity begins to take effect due to the vaccines. Keep making the mature, smart, and informed decisions that will keep us all on campus and safe until herd immunity takes effect. If you are wondering about vaccines and need more information, our library catalogs the New England Journal of Medicine and you can visit the CDC website for current information.

With everyone making the right choices, CCMS should be back to our normal operating conditions this summer – but it means everyone making the best choices until that time.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- ✓ Make the right choices over New Year's! The data proves that young adults hold the key to containing COVID-19. You can reduce the risk of COVID-19 for EVERYONE by making the choice to keep out of crowds and crowded spaces.
- ✓ Continue to practice social distancing, avoid public spaces as much as possible and interactions with the public to the best of your ability.
- ✓ Younger people are at significantly higher risk to contract and spread the disease due to the desire to go out into public spaces and socialize with friends. I know it is difficult, but you need to resist parties and crowded indoor spaces.
- ✓ Wash your hands regularly, keep your hands away from your face, and continue to wear a mask when in public spaces. Your mature choices go a long way towards ending this pandemic.

This pandemic is not over – you must do your individual part to help everyone remain healthy until a COVID-19 vaccine is distributed, and we have achieved overwhelming herd immunity. Students, faculty, and staff did not want or create this worldwide pandemic. Everyone is suffering through this pandemic; we are all stressed but need to continue to support each other so we can get through this together. Decide to make a difference for good and govern yourself accordingly! We can get through this together.

Let's all work towards making this a healthy and happy new year!

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