

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

We have adjusted our COVID-19 policy again to ensure we are aligned with the guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Hamilton County Department of Health. Please read the below carefully.

If you are **exposed** to someone with COVID-19 (within six feet, no masks, and for at least 15 minutes) you are required to begin a period of **quarantine**. Stay home and notify Mr. Lechner and/or Mr. Ivey using the college's COVID@CCMS.EDU email address. You will be permitted to attend classes via zoom and are expected to be in quarantine (staying home and away from others) for 14 days. You may return to campus if you are symptom free at the end of the 14 days and have consulted with your health care professional. You may also return to campus if you have no symptoms after 10 days and you have consulted with your health care professional. In fact, your quarantine period can be shortened to only 7 days if you have no symptoms and obtain a negative COVID-19 test after the 5th day of your quarantine.

If you believe you have **contracted COVID-19** you should obtain a COVID-19 test. If the test is positive, you can immediately begin your 14-day period of **isolation**. The 14-day isolation period starts 48 hours before showing symptoms or 48 hours before your positive test. You can come back to campus in 14 days after consulting your health care professional. A negative COVID test is not required to return, however you do need to consult with your health care provider before returning to campus.

Please review, sign, and return to the Dean of Enrollment Services (Mr. Brinkman) the updated attached “Healthy Together Pledge”.

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.

As we continue to experience the extreme changes in weather this winter it is important for you to know that if we close the campus all students are expected to attend classes via zoom. You will receive a text informing you if the campus is closed due to extreme

weather conditions or a non-emergent circumstance at the college. Please review the attached Campus Closure Policy.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- ✓ Continue to make the right choices! 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, crowded spaces, and to wear a mask.
- ✓ 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. When spreading the virus, most people are asymptomatic. 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 responsible 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