

Hiram Students,

We are so excited to bring you back to campus this year after such an unusual end to the Spring 2020 semester! As we prepare to welcome you back to campus during these unusual times, we are putting in place some precautionary measures to keep you and your fellow classmates as safe as possible. If we all follow these protocols, we will decrease the spread of Covid-19, keep our campus community as safe as possible, and be able to enjoy the personal interactions we have missed over the last four months.

As you will see below, this letter includes an overview of those precautions. Please read it carefully. Then, later this month be on the look for additional information about living on campus and updates on classroom settings. For now, here is key information you need to know.

### **Physical Distancing and Face Coverings**

For the foreseeable future, all faculty, staff, and students will be expected to follow physical distancing protocols. Classes and office buildings will be set up so that you can maintain six feet of separation between others.

Additionally, all members of the community will be required to wear face coverings when inside buildings (except when you are alone in your residence hall room) and when outside if proper distance from others cannot be maintained.

### **Quarantine**

In the 14 days prior to your arrival on campus, you are required to do a “quarantine.” This means you must stay at home as much as possible, separate yourself from others outside of your immediate family, and monitor yourself for symptoms daily. This will require a thermometer for tracking your temperature daily. CDC defines the symptoms of COVID-19 as:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If you must leave your home for essential activities, you should follow these strict guidelines during quarantine:

- Always wear a face covering when outside your home.

- Sanitize or wash your hands with soap for a minimum of 20 seconds before you leave home; use hand sanitizer frequently while out of your home, and apply hand sanitizer one last time before entering your home.
- The novel Coronavirus has been found to be carried on shoes, so use one pair of shoes anytime you are out of your home, and leave those shoes outside or just inside the door at all times. Wash your hands with soap immediately after touching them and sanitize them whenever possible.
- Wash the clothes you wear outside of your home as soon as possible upon your return. Avoid shaking them to prevent spread of any virus particles. Wash your hands with soap immediately after handling dirty clothes.

### **Items that you should bring to campus**

In addition to what you typically bring to campus, you should plan to bring these extra items with you to school this year:

- Thermometer (you will need to screen your temperature every day before leaving your room)
- Lysol/Clorox/other sanitizing wipes (for daily cleaning of high-touch surfaces such as doorknobs)
- Face coverings (you will need to wash reusable face coverings after 1 day of use; Hiram College will provide a face covering to each student when you check in, but it is good to have several and rotate them). Additional face masks will be available for purchase at the bookstore.
- Fever-reducing medicine (such as Ibuprofen/Advil, Aleve, or Tylenol/acetaminophen)

### **Develop a Family Plan before you head our way**

We are pleased to tell you that we have not experienced any COVID-19 cases on campus as of this writing. Even with that good news, we must be prudent and plan for a situation that might be much less positive. As college officials contemplate what we will do if another outbreak occurs, we are asking our students and their families to do the same. Towards that end, be sure you and your parents or guardians think about and answer carefully these questions:

- (A) Where would you go if Hiram College moved to remote instruction needed to close its residence halls?
- (B) What would you do if you tested positive for the COVID-19 virus and had to leave campus? Where would you go? How would you get there? How long could you stay? While we are making every effort to keep the campus safe, we have limited isolation spaces on campus for any students who might tests positive.

### **Move-In Day Procedure**

In order to have the safest move-in procedure as possible, we have staggered our move-in days and times and are committed to deep cleaning at the end of each one. The staggered arrival times will help us create the space we need and keep things as clean and sanitized as possible.

We have mapped out the designated days (outlined below) for student move in. Specific sign-ups for time slots will be announced later this month. Please know that you can bring up to two guests to help you move in. Everyone will need to use face coverings during the entire move in process. More information will be sent later in the summer.

### **Move-In Dates and Times**

You should plan to move in on your appropriate day listed below. In order for us to do a symptom check and other safety procedures, we cannot have anyone move in early. A sign-up sheet for specific times will be sent out later this month.

Monday, August 17 — Resident Assistants

August 20 – Townhouse residents may start to move in; specific sign-up times will be made available until August 30 for Townhouse residents

August 20 - Fall athletes: men's soccer, women's soccer, women's volleyball

August 21– Fall athletes: football

Tuesday, August 25 — returning students with last name starting with A - H

Wednesday, August 26 — returning students with last name starting with I - P

Thursday, August 27 — returning students with last name starting with Q - Z

Friday, August 28 — new students with last name starting with L - Z

Saturday, August 29 — new students with last name starting with A - K

Sunday, August 30 — any remaining students not moved in by this time

### **Classes begin Monday, August 31.**

Students and their families are invited to participate in Zoom meetings later in the month to discuss our re-opening plans and to answer any questions you may have. A variety of topics will be addressed to include daily cleaning requirements and classroom precautions. A schedule for those meetings will be published soon.

Although campus is going to look and feel different this year, Hiram College is committed to providing you with an excellent in-person educational and extracurricular experience in 2020 - 2021. Come prepared, get excited, and know that we will get through this together!

Sincerely,

**Liz Okuma, Ph.D.**  
Senior Vice President  
& Dean of Students

**Asha Goodner, APRN-BC, FNP**  
Director Student Health Services

**Ed Frato-Sweeney**  
Director of Residential &  
Citizenship Education