

Subject: [cfaes-all] Dean's Update
Date: Monday, August 24, 2020 at 12:35:20 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Cfaes-all on behalf of CFAES Office of the Vice President and Dean via Cfaes-all
To: Chakerian, Michael via Cfaes-all
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png, ATT00001.txt

CFAES Community,

As we look ahead to the week—and a new semester and academic year—it’s both exciting and a bit daunting given the circumstances. There are a lot of changes this year and likely, more to come over the next few days and weeks. It’s likely that some things will not go as well as we hoped, while others will go exactly as we planned. People are excited and some are stressed, and mostly there is a lot of uncertainty.

I want to thank our academic programs teams, both on Wooster and Columbus campuses, who lived all that this morning. As both teams prepared to welcome our students to campus with their virtual events, Zoom experienced global unavailability via the web. Both teams did a great job of responding and staying focused on our “student first” philosophy. Thanks to them for ensuring that our students are off to the best possible start.

Although there are many changes to this academic semester, our commitment to our missions of teaching, research, and extension as well as to student success remain the same. Thank you for all you have done to prepare and all you will do to ensure we are as safe and ready as possible - [welcome home CFAES Buckeyes!](#)

I’m proud to be part of this college, not only because of our mission but because of our people. Collectively, we have been resilient and focused. This morning, I shared with students that part of what I appreciate about our college is that when others might get resigned, we get to work. When others think nothing matters, we seek answers and solutions. When others accept the status quo, we seek a better future, and when others seek division, we rally together. I am confident that we will navigate whatever this semester brings with equanimity and humor and likely, a few tough days.

Be well and go Bucks!
Dean Cathann Kress

This update includes:

- Reminder: Together as Buckeyes Training and Pledge
- Business Essential Travel – Exception Approval
- Reminder: Health Checks
- Return-to-Campus Kits
- Residential Student Testing
- Extension In-Person Programming Exception
- Additional Facts and Tools for Autumn Semester
- Wellness Resources

Reminder: Together as Buckeyes Training and Pledge

All students, faculty and staff are required to complete the online training course and

the Together as Buckeyes Pledge by **Tuesday, August 25th**. The 10-minute training is available through [BuckeyeLearn](#) and the pledge must be signed upon completion of the course. The course covers expectations for daily health checks, personal protection such as face masks, hygiene, physical distancing, staying informed and more. The pledge acknowledges an understanding of and commitment to the behaviors described in the training.

We have received several questions about the nature of the pledge and whether or not it serves as a liability waiver for the university. We have inquired about this, and the university has shared the following: **“While the university expects faculty, staff, and students to sign the pledge, it is not a legal waiver**, and taking the training and pledge as a community represents our shared commitment that we are united in our efforts to stay safe and healthy. That said please complete the training portion of the curriculum, and know that even **without signing the pledge, you are still expected to follow the required expectations set forth on the safe and healthy website**. Accountability measures are in place for those who do not complete the training and sign the pledge or choose not to abide by required health and safety guidelines. These measures, as well as more details and FAQs, are available on the [Safe and Healthy Buckeyes](#) website.”

Information about the training and pledge can be found at <https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu/training-pledge>.

Business Essential Travel – Exception Approval

If business travel is being considered because it is essential, please consult the [CFAES resource guide](#) to follow the process for requesting the trip. The [resource guide](#) has been added to the [CFAES Return to Offices and Campuses](#). The guide includes [guiding principles for Business Essential Travel, requirements during the University’s travel restriction period, and a chart showing the approval process](#). Questions should be directed to the department fiscal officer.

Reminder: Health Checks

Please remember to complete your daily health check if you plan to be on our Columbus, Wooster, or Statewide Campus or interacting in-person with faculty, staff, students, or clientele on behalf of Ohio State. Directions can be found on our [CFAES Return to Offices and Campuses](#) web page. If you make a mistake while answering the questions, repeat the process.

Return-to-Campus Kits

Our college team completed a mass order for CFAES. Kits including one disposable mask, two reusable masks, a thermometer, disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer will be available early this week in Columbus, Wooster, and Statewide for faculty and staff. Columbus kits will be available for department/unit pick up at Waterman (an email will be sent when they are ready). Wooster kits will be delivered to buildings for each unit, and Extension kits are in the process of being delivered to regional locations for pick up.

Residential Undergraduate Student Testing

All residential students are being tested weekly in Columbus and Wooster. More information on Columbus testing can be found here: safeandhealthy.osu.edu/testing. In Wooster, testing will be available on Wednesdays in the Fisher Auditorium. Students must sign up for a time to be tested.

CFAES In-Person Programming Exception

In-person educational programs in alignment with classroom guidance must include the following:

- For those educational events that are a truly classroom-style setting, up to 50 people may be in the space (this includes the instructors). Masks are mandatory, 6-ft interperson spacing in all directions, and proper surface and hand hygiene practices must be followed. If we are not able to control these parameters, the class should not occur in that venue.
- A reminder that the university has a requirement for masks. It is not acceptable to violate this mandate. This is true at any classroom venue we use anywhere in the state. Please note that masks are required whether the meeting takes place indoors or outside.

This approval is subject to changing conditions. Should local or state guidance change, we would revisit our approvals. Virtual programming should be used when possible.

Please submit your non-credit in-person program exemption requests as far ahead of the actual program as possible, to allow time for review and training. The submission deadline for each week's review is Wednesday afternoon by 3pm. CFAES Events and In-person Program Proposal Process can be found here: www.go.osu.edu/CFAESf2fEventRequest

Additional Facts and Tools for Autumn Semester

- Our campuses will have far fewer people on them at any one time: Last fall, 91% of our course sections were offered in person. This year, more than 70% are being taught online or through blended approaches. This mix of teaching approaches will create a de-densified campus experience.
- Classrooms and other spaces have been reconfigured for physical distancing, and in-person class sections have been limited to 50 students or less. To learn more, [watch this video](#) and [see photos and layouts](#) of different classroom spaces.
- Face masks are required, and students, faculty and staff are being provided with return to campus PPE kits to support healthy behaviors. See information about [personal protection and hygiene](#).
- The mandatory [training and Together As Buckeyes Pledge](#) represent a community commitment to protect one another. For instructors, we have provided specific guidance on how to handle cases if a student is not following the guidelines in the [FAQs on the Teaching webpage](#). For more information, read the [accountability measures document](#).
- The University has developed a robust [COVID-19 testing program](#) to monitor health conditions in our campus communities. Our program includes opportunities for faculty members on the Columbus campus to voluntarily receive a COVID-19 test, and the details are listed on the [Testing page](#). Our public health and medical experts have established a contact tracing team that will help limit the spread of COVID-19. For more information, read about [contact tracing, isolation and quarantine](#).
- We also encourage you to make use of and share these resources:
 - [Safe and Healthy Buckeyes website](#)
 - For instructors: [Keep Teaching](#) and the [Drake Institute for Teaching and Learning](#)
 - For students: [Keep Learning](#)
 - For employees: [Keep Working](#)

Wellness Resources

- Faculty and staff can use the [Human Resources Keep Well website](#), the [Chief Wellness Officer Health and Wellness](#) page and [Your Plan For Health](#).
- CCS also provides guidance for [ways for faculty and staff to support students](#).
- The Ohio State: Wellness app is designed for students but offers tips and guidance useful for all members of our community. It is available for [Android](#) and [iOS](#) devices.

- Students can be referred to the [Student Wellness Center, Counseling and Consultation Service](#) (CCS) and [Buckeye Peer Access Line](#) (PAL).

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