

Subject: [cfaes-all] Dean's Update
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 9:16:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Cfaes-all on behalf of CFAES Office of the Vice President and Dean via Cfaes-all
To: Vest, Lora F. via Cfaes-all
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png, ATT00001.txt

CFAES Community,

I hope you were all able to enjoy a much deserved, relaxing, and safe Labor Day weekend. Your efforts are shining through following COVID-19 safety protocols and finding creative ways to advance knowledge, advance science and advance industry under our ever-changing circumstances. I appreciate the efforts in continuing our critical work and scholarship.

A lot of questions have come in about COVID-19 Positive Test Result Sharing and Contact Tracing and I encourage you to review the information in this update regarding safety and transmission. It's clear from the tracing that our measures, when utilized consistently and appropriately, are effective.

As we continue to manage stresses related to COVID-19 and juggle work with child/elder care, taking time to take care of yourselves is important. I recently read an article called "[Your 'Surge Capacity' Is Depleted — It's Why You Feel Awful](#)" by Tara Haelle. In the article it offered some vision for how to cope in a pandemic. Things to consider include:

- Accepting that life is different right now
- Recognizing the different aspects of grief
- Experimenting with "both-and" thinking
- Look for activities, new and old, that continue to fulfill you
- Focusing on maintaining and strengthening important relationships
- Beginning to slowly build your resilience bank account

Though, I have shared a few of these in previous messages, it is an important reminder as things continue to pick-up, that we need to monitor ourselves and take care of our greatest asset—our people.

Health and 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.
- Mental Health and Wellness resources have been added to the [Safe and Healthy Buckeyes website](#).
- Students can be referred to the [Student Wellness Center](#), [Counseling and Consultation Service](#) (CCS) and [Buckeye Peer Access Line](#) (PAL).

Join the Ohio State Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for a #buckeyebreak

The #buckeyebreak is a 30-minute virtual hang out with real-talk from you, your peers and EAP team members. Participate in chats about what is helping us all get through these days and learn how to deal with all that's going on. This resource is available to benefits-eligible faculty, staff and dependents. Join us on Sept. 11, 18 and 25. [Learn more and register here](#) (Log in and search by date/keyword EAP workshop).

Be well.

Dean Cathann Kress

This update includes:

- Excused Absence Guidelines for Students
- COVID-19 Positive Test Result Sharing and Contact Tracing
- Faculty, Staff and Student Quarantine Clarification
- Travel for Research – Approval Process
- Return-to-Campus Kits
- CFAES Junior Faculty Coffee Breaks
- Addressing Racism Inequity: Respectful Dialogue Toolkit

Excused Absence Guidelines for Students

[Guidance on excused absences](#) is available to help faculty refine their policies to accommodate absences this autumn, particularly given the challenging circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Office of Undergraduate Education developed the guidelines in collaboration with the University Senate and Undergraduate Student Government. Faculty need to be flexible and ensure access to academic work for students who may need to quarantine. They will not be notified if a student tests positive, so if a student says they will not be attending class (in person), the faculty needs to ensure that students can access materials, etc. during that time.

COVID-19 Positive Test Result Sharing and Contact Tracing

Positive test results of COVID-19 should not be shared. Information is available from a drop-down FAQ at the bottom of <https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu/tracing-isolation-quarantine> that generally states, “faculty, staff and students who are made aware of or suspect that someone else has COVID-19 should not share that information with others, with the exception of supervisors reporting to Human Resources.” More explicitly related to students, from https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu/sites/default/files/2020/08/covid-19_testing_exposure_management_contact_tracing.pdf, it states, “Employees (faculty and staff) of the university who learn of a possible or positive COVID-19 test result for a student are not authorized to share the student's health information. This is a violation of their privacy, and this information is protected by HIPAA and other laws. Please work with SHS and the Case Investigation and Contact Tracing Team (CICCT) to provide the appropriate follow up.”

As shared previously, the university has stood up its own contact tracing unit - (CICCT) - to assist county health officials with student, staff and faculty-related tracing. The website <https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu/tracing-isolation-quarantine> outlines processes in place related to faculty, staff and student tracing. CICCT contacts those with a positive case and determines if someone should be made aware based on factors related to exposures. Also according to https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu/sites/default/files/2020/08/covid-19_testing_exposure_management_contact_tracing.pdf, types of contact NOT currently considered an “exposure” to an individual with COVID-19 include:

- Sitting for 30-60 minutes in the same classroom, lecture hall or dining area as a COVID-19 positive individual at a distance of 6 feet or more while wearing a facemask
- Standing in line to order coffee behind an individual with COVID-19 for three minutes at a distance of 6 feet or more while wearing a facemask
- Studying on the same floor in the library with an individual with COVID-19 at a distance of 6 feet or more while wearing a facemask
- Walking past an individual with COVID-19 in the hallway of your residence hall or on the Oval

If you are unsure the CICTT is unaware of a student case, call the COVID Call Center (614-293-4000). Faculty, staff and students should continue to emphasize COVID-19 safety practices in our classrooms and labs as well as meeting spaces.

Faculty, Staff and Student Quarantine Clarification

There has been some confusion about self-quarantine following testing as described on the COVID-19 Testing webpage (<https://shs.osu.edu/covid-19/covid-19-testing>). The requirement to self-quarantine for 2-3 days following a test applies to faculty and staff opting into voluntary testing and for those who are symptomatic; *it does not apply to students selected for surveillance testing unless they are symptomatic.*

Travel for Research – Approval Process

With the repopulation of campus and moving to stage 5 for Research, the research exemption process came to a close in Early August. Travel approvals for research are still required through the end of December by obtaining an approved eTravel Request. This includes mileage for in-state travel and domestic travel. For more information and guidance about the Business Essential travel process: https://cfaes.osu.edu/sites/cfaes_main/files/site-library/site-images/CFAES_Business%20Essential%20Travel%20Resource%20Guide.pdf

Return-to-Campus Kits

Return-to-campus kits should have been distributed to unit leads/TIU heads for employees with less than 100% telework. Extension county operations kits are in the process of being distributed through area leaders. If you are less than 100% telework and haven't received contact your unit lead/TIU head.

CFAES Junior Faculty Coffee Breaks

In lieu of the Junior Faculty Development Conference we will be modifying our junior faculty programming this fall to an online "coffee break" type format. This is open to all CFAES Assistant Professors, any track (tenure, professional practice, research). Details have been sent directly to CFAES Assistant Professors.

SAVE THE DATE from 3:30-4:30PM for the following:

- Friday, September 18
- Friday, October 23
- Thursday, November 12
- Friday, December 4

Please let Dr. Tracy Kitchel.2@osu.edu know if you have any questions or if you're an Assistant Professor and you have not been receiving communication from Dr. Kitchel.

Addressing Racism Inequity: Respectful Dialogue Toolkit

To achieve a fairer, more equitable and just society, conversations about race, inequity, and difference are critical. To support these discussions, the [Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#), the [Drake Institute for Teaching and Learning](#) and [University Libraries](#) have come together to develop resources which include:

- A [respectful dialogue toolkit](#) to help those committed to leading and engaging in important conversations around race and racism, equity, and inclusion. This toolkit defines respectful dialogue, provides [strategies](#) for nourishing these meaningful conversations, and keeps the community updated with webinars and events to help you further develop your skills to have what we hope are deeply meaningful conversations.

- An [extensive reading list](#) that includes dozens of books, articles, and essays past and present that offer different perspectives on racism. Additionally, they have collaborated to create three reading guides for the popular titles — [White Fragility](#), [Just Mercy](#) and [How to be Anti-Racist](#), with an eye toward facilitating conversations and reading groups with friends, family members, and colleagues about race and racism.

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