

October 29, 2020

Students, Faculty and Staff -

You've undoubtedly seen news about the recent surge in COVID-19 cases in Illinois, particularly Cook County and the immediate Chicago area. As cases increase, the state of Illinois has enacted specific protocols that support mitigation efforts.

At the same time, we have seen an increase on the Concordia-Chicago campus as well. We're pleased to report that our established procedures for testing, contact tracing and quarantining appear to be working well. However, the University has determined a need to take additional steps in order to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 on campus in the immediate future by limiting face-to-face interactions.

Beginning today and continuing through Nov. 9, the following temporary protocols will in place on our campus:

- Review and likely cancel/postpone campus activities that involve any external presence.
- Strongly encourage in-person campus events scheduled during this period to move to a virtual format.
- Suspend specific organized groups that are impacted by COVID-positive cases or close contact exposures to COVID-positive cases within their specific student population(s).

In addition to these steps, each of us has a continued obligation to do our part to stop the spread of the virus. Remember we are all in this together, and must care for ourselves and one another.

Be sure to:

- **Practice Social Distancing** – This is perhaps the most important step we can all take right now, especially as we are forced inside by falling temperatures. Stay at least six feet apart from one another at all times—including during meals, in offices, in residence hall rooms and when studying.
- **Wear a Face Mask** – A reminder that face masks are required to be worn on campus at all times, both indoors and outdoors (except when eating or drinking). Masks should cover both your nose and mouth to prevent the expiration of droplets into the air.
- **Use the #CampusClear App** – Daily reporting of your health status via the #CampusClear smartphone app provides CUC with valuable data regarding the health of on-campus populations and contributes significantly to accurate contact tracing.
- **Make Wise Lifestyle Choices** – We recognize the temptation to let your guard down around friends and family or to attend social events as pandemic fatigue sets in. Remember that the conscientious choices you make to limit your exposure to COVID-19 can have a huge impact on others around you. (*And, yes, this refers to everyone considering attending a Halloween party this weekend too.*)

A reminder that there are no classes from November 23-27 as we extend Thanksgiving break in lieu of a separate fall break this year. We expect that many residential students will return home for the remainder of the semester during this period. A reminder that all students who choose to return to campus after Thanksgiving will be required to take an on-campus, University-provided COVID-19 test at that time.

Let's make these last three weeks leading up to Thanksgiving as safe and successful as possible.

Thank you!

- Emergency Response Team