



An Update on Plans for LSUS Fall Reopening

Dear Students,

I hope this finds you well. As promised, I am sharing this weekly update to keep you informed of our plans for reopening the campus for the fall semester. While the campus will necessarily have a different look and feel, we remain committed to providing excellent educational and co-curricular experiences. In my last email, I described our efforts to reconfigure academic spaces to conform to public health safety recommendations. These efforts are ongoing and the [schedule of classes](#) is being updated to reflect necessary changes to classroom locations and delivery format as these decisions are made. I encourage you to review your class schedule in advance of the fall term and allow additional time once on campus to get oriented.

We are also creating spaces across campus where students can safely gather and interact between classes. The University Center, the Campus Wide Lab, the Food Pantry, the bookstore, the student weight room, the Library, and the Student Success Center, will all be open with reconfigured spaces for safe and limited gatherings. You can count on creative and innovative opportunities to connect you to LSUS and support your success. For example, Student Activities will offer meal kits (with ingredients and instructions!) once a month, a virtual campus scavenger hunt, drive-in events, and fitness classes. All student support offices will also be available to you in a combination of face to face and virtual appointments. As you can see, we are working diligently to create safe and welcoming spaces to minimize the interruption to your campus experience.

Since my last message, the Pandemic Action Team and Ochsner Health System have developed a procedure to conduct wellness checks to identify individuals with possible symptoms of Covid-19. It is expected that **all** individuals will be screened at a Wellness Checkpoint each day as they arrive on campus. While the locations of the all Checkpoints have yet to be determined, there will be drive through locations at three separate locations so that screenings can be easily conducted as faculty, staff, students, and visitors arrive on campus. The screening is expected to be very brief; however, it is recommended that all individuals allow for extra time to accommodate for this necessary wellness check. The additional time is especially important for students arriving for classes between 9AM and 2PM. The screening will consist of a forehead temperature scan and a brief symptoms questionnaire. If an individual has no symptoms, s/he will be given a sticker with the current date. This sticker must be worn all day while on campus to signify the screening resulted in no symptoms and to permit entrance to all other areas of campus.

You also play an important part in keeping campus safe by adhering to public health guidelines, especially physical distancing, wearing face coverings on campus, and staying home if symptomatic. LSUS will have a limited number of face coverings to provide; however, all students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors are expected to have their own masks for ongoing use throughout the fall semester.

Face coverings will be worn in all indoor common spaces and outdoors when physical distancing is not possible. The CDC has issued [instructions](#) for face coverings and recommends cloth masks that:

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- Are secured with ties or ear loop
- Include multiple layers of fabric
- Allow for breathing without restriction, and
- Can be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.

Our reopening plan continues to develop and is mindful of maintaining a safe and healthy environment while also offering excellent educational and co-curricular opportunities. Please keep in mind that portions of our plan may change as challenges related to the virus continue to evolve. I commit to keeping you updated as we move through this challenging time and I am also be available for any questions you may have. I appreciate your understanding and patience as we prepare for the fall semester.

Stay safe.

Paula Atkins, Ed.D.