January 28, 2021

Hello Pitt-Johnstown Resident Students,

I wanted to share some important information with all of you that has been previously communicated at different times. Please take a few moments to carefully read everything below so that you know what is expected of our campus community during the spring semester to keep the Pitt-Johnstown community safe during this pandemic.

**Shelter-in-Place**
Your first 10 days on campus will be a “shelter-in-place.” This will end on February 10. Shelter-in-Place is not the same as quarantine. Here are the basics:

- Only have close contact with your pod or roommates. Keep your contacts to a minimum.
- You are able to attend class in person. The library is open for safe studying.
- Only leave your room or apartment for picking up food, outdoor safe exercise, Wellness Center exercise, working when necessary, and essential shopping and medical needs.
- Students selected for surveillance testing should go to the testing.
- Group work and student activities should be held virtually.

**Things not to do during Shelter-in-Place**

- Travel – please do not travel home, to visit friends/family or travel to other colleges
- Go out to bars/restaurants – this is very important
- Host a party or go to a party (on- or off-campus) – this one is self-explanatory
- Visit other residence facilities – stay in your place with your small pod.

**Elevated Posture**
We will also begin the semester in an elevated risk posture. Changes in risk posture are based on a thorough analysis of infection rates and other considerations by the University’s COVID Medical Response Office (CMRO) and the Healthcare Advisory Group (HCAG). If our campus remains healthy with low levels of COVID-19, we could possibly change to guarded status this semester. This possible improvement falls mostly on your shoulders with your behavior and good decisions. Everyone’s cooperation in following the university’s COVID-19 protocols is critical. While in the elevated posture the following will be in effect:

- all dining services will be on a take-out only basis,
- instruction in person is permitted (except for large lectures),
- housing is open with virus mitigation and isolation interventions in place, and
- some shared spaces are open

**Surveillance Testing**
The University will continue to conduct surveillance testing throughout the semester. Students will be chosen at random by the CMRO and will be informed of their testing date via email. Surveillance testing was very helpful as it identified students who were infected with the virus but otherwise asymptomatic. If you are chosen to be tested, please follow the instructions to register for testing and show up for your test. Surveillance testing will occur the first week that you are on campus and weekly for the near future. Please monitor your email for an invitation to surveillance testing.
If you test positive, you will be notified by Health Services and you will be moved to isolation housing and your close contacts will be placed in quarantine. Please cooperate with our contact tracers and follow all instructions from Health Services and Housing & Dining for your safety and comfort.

**Other Reminders**

- The COVID-19 protocols that were in place for the residence halls last semester will continue. Although we have suspended the bi-weekly bathroom inspections.
- Due to the ongoing pandemic, your travel should be limited to necessary travel only regardless of our risk posture. This means off-campus travel should be limited to obtaining essential items, attending medical appointments, and participating in work/internships/clinical rotations/student teaching. If you must travel (after Shelter-in-Place is complete) please exercise all of the universal precautions and do not travel to other schools or areas where the virus could likely be present. Many of the outbreaks in the fall were linked to students traveling to other schools and other high-risk areas.
- If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, have been exposed to the virus, or have tested positive you should contact Health Services immediately (814-269-7110). **DO NOT** visit the office if you suspect you have contracted the virus. Health Services will then determine if you need to be placed in quarantine or isolation or if you simply need to monitor your symptoms. Information on quarantine and isolation is available [here](#).
- If you decide to return home permanently prior to the end of the semester, remember to cancel your housing and meal plan. You should submit the cancellation online (which can be done online at my.pitt.edu). This will cancel your housing AND meal plan. Prorated refunds for cancellations will only be available for a certain period of time, which has yet to be determined.
- We are working on a resident student visitation policy that will allow resident students to have a resident student from another facility in their rooms/apartments in a limited and safe way. There is more to come on this change and it will not go into effect until after Shelter-in-Place is complete.

We know that this pandemic is hard on all of you and appreciate your cooperation with these enhanced safety protocols. Please continue to wash your hands, avoid crowds, minimize new contacts, and practice physical distancing.

Please stay Mountain Cat Strong,

Chris Stumpf, VP of Student Affairs