

## **President Hanley's COVID-19 Updates**

**August 6, 2020**

Dear LSSU Community,

Campus is in the process of returning to many of its regular activities. Students are returning to the residence halls, faculty members are preparing for their courses, and staff members are busily helping students through start of semester and year processes. We have been eagerly anticipating this moment when the campus would resume its vibrancy for several months. Our lives have all undoubtedly been affected by the challenges created by the prevalence of COVID-19, but we continue to persevere in fulfilling our institution's educational mission.

In the pages that follow is the University's planned response to the COVID-19 pandemic and how the University will realize face-to-face classes for Fall 2020 and after. This plan represents the collaboration of the COVID-19 Response Team, which was incorporated at my request in March. Since that time, they have consistently met multiple times each week to discuss the key issues and challenges and how to align the University's response with federal, state, and local public health guidelines. As the semester commences, the Response Team will continue their work to ensure LSSU's response meets guidelines and/ or executive orders and effectively mitigating risks.

As we progress through the academic year, I ask each of you to adhere to the Four Pillars of Laker Safety.

These Pillars will guide us as we return to campus and provide us with simple, but effective ways that we can be mindful of all Lakers' safety and well-being.

I look forward to seeing you on campus and to the promise of the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Rodney S. Hanley, Ph.D.  
President  
Lake Superior State University

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**June 30, 2020**

Dear LSSU Community:

As of Tuesday, June 30, 2020, the Chippewa County Health Department (CCHD) has a reported total of nine confirmed cases of COVID-19. This is an increase of seven confirmed cases in the last few days. In spite of these new cases, Chippewa County remains a safe place, however continued vigilance is required. Click [here](#) for more information on the recent COVID-19 cases in Chippewa County, Michigan.

Please monitor yourself for symptoms and if you experience symptoms or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, stay home and CALL the LSSU Health Care Center M-F 8 am - 1 pm, or use War Memorial Hospital's COVID-19 Evaluation Drive Thru located at the Emergency Department Parking lot.

Together with the CCHD, I urge each one of you to be mindful of the Four Pillars that inform the university's COVID-19 response planning.

Stay safe and stay well.

Sincerely,

Rodney S. Hanley, Ph.D.  
President

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**June 13, 2020**

Dear LSSU Community,

On Friday, July 10, 2020, Governor Whitmer issued [Executive Order 2020-147](#) about wearing masks in the state of Michigan. The order went into effect July 13, 2020, at 12:01 am and I encourage each of you to read the order in its entirety. In response to and compliance with this order, effective Monday, July 13, 2020, Lake Superior State University will require all individuals on campus property to wear a face covering when in any indoor space and when outdoors and unable to consistently maintain a distance of six feet or more from individuals who are not members of their household.

The requirement to wear a face covering does not apply to individuals who:

- a. Are younger than five years old, though children two years old and older are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering, pursuant to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC");
- b. Cannot medically tolerate a face covering;
- c. Are eating or drinking while seated at a food service establishment;
- d. Are exercising when wearing a face covering would interfere in the activity;
- e. Are receiving a service for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service;
- f. Are entering a business or are receiving a service and are asked to temporarily remove a face covering for identification purposes;
- g. Are communicating with someone who is hearing impaired or otherwise disabled and where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication;
- h. Are actively engaged in a public safety role, including but not limited to law enforcement, firefighters, or emergency medical personnel;
- i. Are officiating at a religious service; or
- j. Are giving a speech for broadcast or an audience.

The Four Pillars that have been guiding our return to campus plans for Fall 2020 will remain in effect. The Governor's most recent executive order, though, modifies the seconding pillar as seen below.

1. **Social Distancing:** Maintain six feet of distance from those around you when possible.
2. **Mask/ Face Covering:** Wear a mask or face covering when in enclosed, public locations and/or when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. ***\*Per Michigan Executive order 2020-147 effective July 13, 2020, at 12:01 a.m., Lake Superior State University will require all individuals on campus property to wear a face covering when in any indoor space, and when outdoors and unable to consistently maintain a distance of six feet or more from individuals who are not members of their household. The requirement to wear a face covering does not apply to individuals who are giving a speech for broadcast or an audience.***
3. **Sanitization:** Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds multiple times each day or use hand sanitizer of at least 60% alcohol. Sanitize your desk, workstation twice daily, high-frequency touch surfaces, and living spaces with wipes found across campus.
4. **Personal/ Social Responsibility:** Actively encourage those around you to adhere to these pillars while doing so yourself. Remember, we are in this together and we all have a role to play in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

As we near the start of our semester, we will continue to be in touch with needed information for your arrival to campus. I look forward to welcoming you back to campus and to the semester and year ahead. Until then, be safe and well.

Sincerely,

Rodney S. Hanley, PhD  
President

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**May 19, 2020**

Dear LSSU Community,

Governor Whitmer issued [Executive Order 2020-92](#) on Monday, May 18, 2020, and it went into immediate effect. I encourage you to read the order in its entirety and to adhere to it through its end date of Thursday, May 28, 2020.

Under this new Executive Order, many of the stay-in-place directives carry forward from previous orders. As such, employees who have been working remotely will continue to do so for the duration of this Order.

Some sectors of the economy and some businesses have been authorized to resume some services. On Friday, May 22 at 12:01 am, the following are allowed to open in regions 6 and 8 (the Upper Peninsula): retail stores, offices, and restaurants and bars with limited seating.

Guidelines issued in the Governor's previous order in this update state that individuals must wear a covering over one's nose and mouth—such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief—when in any enclosed public space. LSSU asks all those on-campus to continue to adhere to this guideline.

- *Employees: If you still need a mask and have not already done so, please notify your supervisor and LSSU will provide one to you. If you prefer to make or provide your own mask that matches [CDC guidelines](#), you may do so.*

This updated order also continues past practices and safeguards to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 including, but not limited to maintaining six feet of social distance, washing hands frequently with soap and water, and prohibiting public gatherings of any size. Disinfect frequently touched surfaces including keyboards, mice, phones, door handles, tables, and desks. This order maintains that employees should conduct work remotely as previously determined. Employees should, therefore, continue the same schedule and work practice as under the previous order unless notified otherwise by their supervisor.

I want to thank all of you for your ongoing cooperation with the demands of the executive orders as they are issued. We are in this together, and we will get through it together.

Sincerely,

Rodney S. Hanley, Ph.D.  
President

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**May 7, 2020**

Dear Lakers,

Our University continues its commitment to its educational mission and taking measures to protect the safety and wellbeing of the University students and employees. Although summer courses continue in an online delivery, we plan to resume in-person instruction for Fall 2020 enacting a plan of ***Get Here & Stay Here***.

Our plan for Academic Year 2020-2021 will run on a modified timeline that will affect all of us. The new schedule means:

- **Fall classes will commence on August 10, 2020.**
- Classes and Final Exams will conclude by Thanksgiving in November.
- Session Break runs from Thanksgiving – January 18, 2021 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day).
- **Spring classes will commence on January 19, 2021.**
- Spring break will be shifted to January in order to extend the break between the fall and spring semesters. There will be no spring break in the middle of the spring semester.
- Classes and Final Exams will conclude by April 30, 2021.

Under ***Get Here & Stay Here***, we will welcome you to campus and ask you to stay at or close to campus for the duration of the fall and spring semesters. Except for students for whom travel to and from home is what enables attendance and participation, we will ask you to minimize – if not eliminate – any back and forth travels away from campus, especially to or through areas more adversely affected by COVID-19.

We have reviewed data and believe this modified timeline presents the best and safest time and way to have students on-campus for coursework in the fall. Our plan for in-person instruction

will align with CDC guidelines and will be supported by expectations of social distancing, wearing of masks, enhanced cleaning practices by custodial staff, an infectious disease response plan, and a COVID-19 Task Force that meets multiple times each week. We will raise expectations that all Lakers contribute to the effort of keeping campus clean and sanitized by using disinfectant wipes and/or spray in academic buildings and residence halls alike.

I realize this modified schedule may also translate to changing some of your personal and family summer schedules. I do not minimize the challenge this shift brings with it. I want to be certain to extend a heartfelt thank you for your flexibility, collaboration, and dedication to your education. My gratitude also reaches your loved ones whose schedules may be affected.

We are looking forward to having students and employees back to campus in a few short months. In the meantime, continue to monitor your LSSU email and follow **@lakestateu** and **@Issucampuslife** on Instagram and Facebook.

Stay safe and well.

Sincerely,

Rodney S. Hanley, Ph.D.  
President