

Campus COVID-19 Update: Be Vigilant

Dear LSSU Community,

We received notification today of a new positive case of COVID-19 in an off-campus University community member, who is in isolation at their place of residence. The Chippewa County Health Department is conducting contact tracing to quarantine those individuals with direct contact. This most recent case brings our total positive count to 14, of which three are active cases. As a reminder, our [COVID-19 dashboard](#) is regularly updated to reflect the current status of the University's response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

In the past two weeks, Chippewa County is witnessing a steady and concerning rise in COVID-19 positive and probable cases. As we approach Halloween, the end of the semester, and the holidays, we want to remind all Lakers that the transmission of COVID-19 is increasing across the state. Through our individual and collective vigilance, the LSSU community has been a relatively safe environment, as demonstrated by our modest positive case count, which is among the lowest of Michigan's colleges and universities. The next few weeks will likely be stressful for all of us, which can have a detrimental effect on our immune systems.

Commitment, consideration, and dedication to the Four Pillars of Laker Safety are absolutely essential as we bring this semester to a close and embark on the holiday break. Given the LSSU campus has continued to be a relatively safe haven from the Coronavirus, we encourage all Lakers to minimize travel and exposure as we marshal toward the end of the semester.

In the unfortunate circumstance that you become symptomatic, stay home and monitor your symptoms. COVID-19 tests remain available at Health Care Center, however Centers for Disease Control & Prevention guidelines recommend waiting five days from symptom onset and/ or from last known contact with a person who tested positive before being tested. The Health Care Center is prioritizing appointments and testing to ensure the most effective diagnoses. If you have symptoms that persist for five days, please contact the Health Care Center at (906) 635-2110. If you believe you have been in direct contact with a person who is positive, please contact Chippewa County Health Department at (906) 635-1566.

The campus community continues to enforce the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Emergency Order](#) and the [Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration Emergency Rules](#), both of which maintain the face covering mandate – among other health and safety protocols. As a result, the Four Pillars of Laker Safety, remain in full effect as listed 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 over your nose and mouth when in any public indoor space and when outdoors and unable to maintain a distance of six feet or more from individuals who are not members of your household. *The circumstances in which individuals do not need to wear a face covering are outlined in the [Gathering Prohibition and Mask Order](#) and [MIOSHA Order](#).*
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 at least twice daily your desk or workstation, high-frequency touch surfaces, and living spaces. Wipes are supplied 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.

Please embrace your responsibility to keep our communities safe.

Sincerely,

Michael Beazley, PhD – Dean of Student Affairs

with

Wendy Beach – Director, Human Resources, Safety, & Risk

Lynn Gillette, PhD – Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

Co-Chairs, [COVID Response Team](#)