

COVID-19 Update - Halloween Weekend

Dear LSSU Community,

This week the nation, the state of Michigan, Chippewa County and the LSSU community experienced elevated diagnoses of COVID-19 resulting in an increasing number of individuals being placed in isolation and quarantine. Furthermore, yesterday the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) issued an [Epidemic Order](#) that, among other things, reinforced masking, further limited capacities at indoor and outdoor gatherings, and limited seating at dining establishments in the interest of public safety for an indefinite length of time.

The LSSU community has not been immune. We have had community members diagnosed and exposed. Please remember the most current campus information is available on the [LSSU Coronavirus Response dashboard](#) which is updated daily to reflect the current status of the University's response to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Chippewa County Health Department is currently engaged in the requisite contact tracing from today's testing and so, it is out of an abundance of caution that we are taking precautionary steps to limit clustering in the ongoing interest in the safety of the campus and Sault Ste. Marie communities.

We ask each of our community members to be mindful that, although it is Halloween weekend and our instincts may be oriented to celebrations and gatherings, it is imperative that any and all activities must be approached with extreme caution and the realization that we must be safe and protect one another.

The Four Pillars of Laker Safety have served us well and they will continue to do so if we collectively exercise caution and commitment. Please remember, exercise, and reinforce:

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 October 29, 2020 [Gatherings and Face 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.

We have two weeks of classes and an exam week to go before Thanksgiving week is upon us. We want that all our community that they are able to celebrate our national day of Thanks safe, healthy, and among families and loved ones.

In the unfortunate circumstance that you become symptomatic, stay home and monitor your symptoms. COVID-19 tests remain available at the LSSU 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.

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**](#)