

Sept. 25, 2020

Dear LSSU Community,

We reached the midpoint of the semester and we can report a total of eight (8) positive cases of COVID-19 that have affected our campus community. Five cases were among on-campus residents, with the remaining three cases among an off-campus student and two employees. These eight cases are reflected in our recently enhanced dashboard, which is updated regularly. At the sending of this communique, the number of LSSU community members in isolation is at two while those in quarantine are at one. We also incorporated the data from the Chippewa County Health Department on our dashboard so that our community can access both campus and county data in one location.

As the campus prepares for midterms, we want to commend your commitment to the [Four Pillars of Laker Safety](#) and the impact it has had in the preparation and execution of our Return to Campus Plan. Our current data are very encouraging and suggest that our collective diligence has been effective to-date. Our thanks go to the faculty members who are dedicated to delivering classes in-person. We thank those instructors who adapted to the virtual and hybrid environments to meet the needs brought on by this pandemic. We also thank the staff members who help ensure the safety and well-being of campus: our custodial and facilities staff who maintain our buildings; our dining service staff who provide food each day; and our live-in professional and student staff. Our list is surely longer than this message permits but be assured of our gratitude for your dedication and efforts.

Though there is much to be commended, we are far from finished. We still have eight weeks left and we know that our landscape can change rapidly, so our successes to-date should not beget complacency. As we enter cold and flu season, we must all continue to be vigilant and all the more attentive to ensuring our respective compliance with the Four Pillars of Laker Safety – maintain social distance, wear mask/ face covering, enhance sanitization, and take personal/ social responsibility. It is especially important to highlight the importance of wearing a mask or face covering over your mouth and nose. The mask or face covering, by all indications, may be the most effective way to mitigate spread of COVID-19. As the weather cools, people will likely spend more time indoors, so protect yourselves by wearing your mask or face covering whenever indoors and also when outside and unable to maintain six feet of social distance. If you need a mask, visit the Admissions Office in CANUSA. Student-staff from Admissions are also walking around campus and distributing LSSU masks on a regular basis.

As a university, we are steadfast in our commitment to teaching courses face-to-face whenever it is the most effective form of delivery. Each of us has a role to play in realizing this vision of the Fall 2020 semester. Renew your commitment to **Get Here, Stay Here** as a measure to protect yourselves, your families, and your loved ones.

Stay well and be safe.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rodney S. Hanley
President