

**\*\*\*NMC EMPLOYEE/STUDENT UPDATE 11/02/2020—RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19)\*\*\***

Dear NMC Community,

I hope you are all staying well! With news of rising COVID-19 cases in our community and capacities in our hospitals at critical levels, I wanted to share with you updates regarding the College's COVID-19 response efforts to keep our campus open and maintain the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff.

- **COVID-19 Resource webpage:** While the college is working hard to keep faculty, staff and students safe, we are seeing an uptick of positive cases on campus. Last week, NMC had 8 reported positive cases. To keep our campus community informed, we are updating our [COVID-19 Resource webpage](#) with a dashboard displaying new positive cases by week and cumulative positive cases since March 2020.  
Our student services staff, operational staff and faculty have been tremendous in their efforts to keep students affected by Covid-19 progressing in their classes and clinical. I want to especially thank our Campus Health department. Sam Barnhart, Lori Parr-Malone, and Crystal Lush have been extraordinary in their efforts informing our students about COVID-19 exposure and positive case protocols, conducting contact tracing, communicating with faculty and staff in addition to tending to non-Covid-19 student illnesses and clinical compliance responsibilities.
- **Campus Hours and Availability:** Our campus remains open for students to seek support services, study space and in-person classes/labs. Campus hours are Monday – Friday 6am – 10pm and Saturday and Sunday 8am – 8pm.  
Please self-screen for Covid-19 symptoms prior to coming to campus and follow campus masking and physical distancing protocol. Physical distancing protocols must be maintained while outside, eating and studying. Students can contact Campus Health or [click here](#) to communicate a COVID-19 exposure or positive test. Please use this [COVID-19 reporting form](#) if experiencing symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 and Campus Health personnel will contact you.
- **Course and Clinical Scheduling:**
  - **Undergraduate Nursing:** All BSN courses and clinical will be virtual 11/30 – 12/11. This decision was made prior to the start of the fall 2020 semester. **Your Arts/Sciences courses and labs will run as scheduled.**
  - **PTA:** All PTA courses will be virtual 11/30 – 12/11. This decision was made prior to the start of the fall 2020 semester. **Your Arts/Sciences courses and labs will run as scheduled.**
  - **All NMC courses/clinical:** Your faculty are your first resource for informing you of any changes to current class/clinical schedules. Please ask them if you have any questions or need access to additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). They are there to help you succeed.
  - **Online Testing:** On October 26<sup>th</sup>, we hosted a WebEx to answer student and faculty concerns about the online testing platform—Integrity Advocate. Thank you for your questions and we are addressing those concerns. Please refer to the Q&A document that was sent out.
  - **Spring 2021 semester:** We are planning to begin the spring 2021 semester and clinical/fieldwork experiences as scheduled. With the unpredictability of COVID-19 conditions, adjustments to course, lab or clinical/fieldwork schedules and instruction modes are currently being considered. Any modifications to course, lab, or clinical/fieldwork scheduling or modes of instruction will be communicated by November 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Summer 2021 semester:** NRS 470 will not be offered in summer 2021 semester.

- **December 2020 Graduation:** Out of an abundance of caution, we have decided to cancel our in-person hooding and commencement ceremonies scheduled for December 11, 2020. We are exploring alternate opportunities to celebrate our students' academic achievements. More details to come.

So, in the mist of all the uncertainty 2020 has provided, please don't let down your guard. Now more than ever we need to be vigilant. Wear a mask, practice physical distancing, wash your hands frequently, remain home if you are sick and refrain from large gatherings. We want you and your families to stay well. With gratitude and love,

*Deb Carlson*

Deb Carlson  
President/CEO  
Nebraska Methodist College