

Dear Members of the Keystone Community:

I would like to share a very important update with you regarding our plans of operation for the coming weeks due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Like other colleges and universities in our region, and around the nation, in recent days we have experienced a significant spike in the number of positive COVID-19 cases among students. The number of students who have been placed in quarantine due to contact tracing has also expanded dramatically.

Because of this development, Keystone College will suspend all in-person classes for a period of two weeks beginning Wednesday, March 3, 2021 and lasting through Wednesday, March 17, 2021. If positive cases decline sufficiently, we hope to resume in-person classes on Thursday, March 18, 2021. Until that time, all classes will be conducted virtually.

We had hoped to avoid this situation and, until now, had been successful in our efforts since the beginning of the academic year last September. However, a different course of action is necessary so we are forced to take this step in the best interests for the health and safety of the entire Keystone community. It is critical during this time that all members of our community, especially our students, be mindful of all health and safety protocols such as mask-wearing, social distancing, hand-washing, etc. that we have been emphasizing the past months. If these requirements are followed, we are hopeful the amount of positive cases will decrease and in-person classes (in addition to our virtual classes) can resume as soon as possible. If they are not followed, we will be forced to take more restrictive actions.

Several other day-to-day activities may continue with an abundance of caution. Most important, our Student Restaurant, because of its large size, will remain open under current health and safety regulations. Similarly, Miller Library will remain open but will enforce mandatory facemask rules and limited occupancy. In-season NCAA sports, all of which are being played outdoors, will continue and regular surveillance testing among participating student-athletes announced last week will be conducted. All staff schedules will continue as usual.

Again, we cannot emphasize strongly enough the need to observe all safety regulations throughout campus, especially by students in our residence halls and those living off-campus during the coming weeks and for the rest of the semester. These are not just guidelines but critical requirements needed to protect everyone from the devastating and potentially fatal impact of COVID-19. With everyone's expected cooperation we can reverse this disturbing trend and resume in-person classes in two weeks.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Tracy L. Brundage, Ph.D.
President