

Dear Members of the Keystone Community:

As you know, we are in the home stretch of our fall 2020 semester. Together, we have faced and overcome many challenges as we have dealt with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your tremendous efforts since coming to campus in August. We have all worked very hard to take the necessary safety precautions to fight the pandemic and its horrible impact upon our lives and our communities. If you, your family members, or friends have suffered from COVID-19, please be assured you have our ongoing sympathy and support.

As Thanksgiving approaches and we preparing to send students home, a safe exit from campus is our top priority. As such, we want to provide important information that will help students leave campus, travel, and arrive home as safely as possible.

Important Dates

- In-person classes end at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2020. Instruction resumes virtually on Monday, Nov. 30. Finals exams will begin Dec. 7 and conclude Dec. 11.
- Residence halls officially close at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 24.
- Students who leave prior to Nov. 24 should notify their Resident Assistant to arrange the return of their room key and for check-out procedures. Remember, students who fail to properly check out will receive a fine.
- Extended housing from Nov. 25–Dec. 11 will be available for those resident students experiencing housing insecurities or technology challenges. Students interested in extended housing should complete the application on [the Residence Life MyKC page \(login required\)](#) by Tuesday, Nov. 17. Brunch and dinner will be provided to students utilizing extended housing from November 29–December 11.
- Residence halls officially reopen on Friday, Jan. 22, 2021.
- Similar to fall 2020, move-in for spring 2021 will be spread out over three days to accommodate appropriate social distancing.
- Resident students will receive information in their Keystone e-mail accounts regarding spring 2021 move-in times and dates prior to Nov. 24.
- Traditional classes for the spring 2021 semester will begin on Monday, Jan. 25, 2021 and will be offered in the same format as the fall semester.

Pre-Travel Recommendations

In order to avoid taking COVID-19 home, we highly recommend students do the following prior to their departure from campus:

- Restrict your activities until your departure from campus.
- Other than dining and classes, minimize interactions with others to reduce the number of people you have close contact with to reduce the chance of infection.
- Continue to follow Keystone College health and safety guidelines, especially around others. Properly wear a face mask or covering, social distance, and wash your hands.
- Get an influenza (flu) vaccination.
- Check current regulations and requirements for travel to your destination. Some states have mandatory quarantine and/or testing requirements upon arrival and others have a form that must be completed prior to entering the state.
- Be aware of COVID-19 rates in any state you will visit as you travel home. Traveling increases your risk of COVID-19 exposure, so plan ahead to adequately protect yourself.
- Strictly follow Keystone College health and safety guidelines to minimize your risk of exposure and infection, which could put you and your family at an increased risk for COVID-19.

COVID-19 Testing

Students are encouraged to get a COVID-19 test early in the week of Nov. 16, 2020 to ensure that results will be available prior to traveling home. This testing is not required, but suggested to provide peace of mind for our students and their families. Contact the Wellness Coordinator at 570-945-8255 or carla.salsman@keystone.edu for help with scheduling the test.

Remember, test results only reflect one's status at that specific point in time. There can be false negatives. You can still contract COVID-19 after you take the test, including while traveling home. **A negative test does not mean you should stop preventative measures such as properly wearing a face mask/covering and social distancing.**

Travel Recommendations

On the day you travel, we highly recommend the following:

- Do not travel using public transportation if you were recently diagnosed with COVID-19 (within 10 days), or you have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 (within 14 days).
- Re-check current regulations and requirements for travel to your destination.

- Reduce the number of stops on your trip. Take a direct flight if possible and if you are driving, pack food/snacks for the ride.
- Take safety precautions as you travel, especially on shared or public transportation. Properly wear a face mask/covering at all times and consider also wearing a face shield. Stay at least six feet away from other people when you can. If that is not possible, sit as far away from other people as possible and open windows, if possible. Carry and use hand sanitizer frequently. The least risky option is private transportation by yourself or with family members.
- Use disinfecting/sanitizing wipes to clean any touchable surfaces in the vehicle in which you are traveling. This includes planes, trains, and other forms of transportation.

Arrival Recommendations

In an effort to protect your family and loved ones, we recommend you take a cautious approach and which is especially important if you live with people who are vulnerable or at higher risk of complications from COVID-19.

- Continue to follow Keystone College health and safety guidelines to minimize your risk of exposure and infection, which could put you and your family at an increased risk for COVID-19.
- Follow CDC guidelines for holiday gatherings.

Medical and Mental Health Tips

- Be mindful of your mental health. Reach out for help or guidance from your primary care provider, a psychologist/mental health clinician, or other provider if you are feeling sad, anxious, or hopeless, or if you feel emotional distress of any kind.
- Consult your primary care provider at home for any health concerns, especially if you have preexisting conditions or develop COVID-19 symptoms.
- Remember, you are not alone. We are all going through this together. Be sure to talk to family and friends about how you are feeling.

Additional Resources

Visit the following CDC websites for additional information on travel and safer ways to celebrate the holidays:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>

Again, thank you so much for all you have accomplished this semester. Please continue to heed all safety precautions we have recommended. We wish you all the best for the remainder of the semester and we look forward to seeing everyone in January, 2021.

Sincerely,

Tracy L. Brundage, Ph.D.
President