



Office of the President

May 18, 2020

Daemen College
Faculty, Staff and Students

Dear Colleagues,

By now, you may have heard that Governor Cuomo was in Buffalo today and announced that WNY can start gradually opening up tomorrow (Tuesday). This afternoon, Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul, who is coordinating WNY's reopening, met with local college and university presidents to discuss the reopening of institutions of higher education. Certainly, the news that WNY will begin a reopening process is great news and something that many of us have been wanting to hear for a while. However, we all must temper that excitement; transitioning back to a bustling campus must be done with a great deal of planning, caution, and care.

To that end, I want to note that in the last week or so since Vice President Naylor sent out an outline to the campus community regarding the guiding principles that the Emergency Response Team (ERT) is using to coordinate a re-opening plan, a tremendous amount of work has been completed on specific policies and procedures designed to keep people safe and welcomed. While there are still many details to work out, I'd like to share some highlights of what we are planning:

- A phased-in approach in 25% increments for staff and faculty returning to campus in similar increments to how we transitioned to a distant-learning model.
- Prior to returning to work, a process in which clearance will be provided based on a combination of screening, testing, and mandatory PPE that will be issued by Daemen.
- Once at work, access to a daily tool for individuals to report health concerns that will allow the College to be proactive in intervention.
- Policies and protocols for staff, faculty, and students for wearing protective equipment and keeping physical distance while creating a campus environment where people feel safe.
- Enhanced cleaning and sterilization of rooms and equipment, including the regular use of new electrostatic sanitization equipment. (Additional cleaning equipment will be provided for each office so that they may take care of their own sanitation of their frontline space in between college cleaning.)

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- Standard campus-wide-signage, floor markers, and barriers to assist with creating distance while not creating an unwelcomed or unsafe atmosphere.
- Density controlling measures for classrooms, non-academic spaces, and dining facilities to keep physical distance between individuals.

This is just a sampling of what we are working on in great detail. In the near future, we will share all of this information and the baseline procedures that offices will need to follow in order to operate for the time being in our “new normal.” While these changes may seem like an inconvenience for now, we are doing what is necessary to keep people safe while we introduce people back on campus.

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