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5-1-2020

Coronavirus Update 5-1-2020

The Coronavirus Planning Team

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Coronavirus Update 5-1-20

Dear members of the Sacred Heart University community,

Last week, we shared our hope that the University community will be on campus for the beginning of the fall semester barring any restrictions from health officials and/or the governor. University leadership is proceeding on the assumption that classes will be on-ground and are considering the actions we will need to take to ensure everyone's health and safety once we are back together.

Our plan to offer a full on-campus program for both residential and commuter students will not come without temporary changes to our typical way of campus life. There will be new procedures and practices that will ensure the wellbeing of our community. There are still many decisions to be made and scenarios to be considered by the task forces we told you about, but some of the things they are considering include:

- Requirements for testing/lab results for students, faculty, staff and university business partners
- The use of masks during classes and in public gathering spaces
- Institution of capacity limits to allow for social distancing in spaces such as workout/exercise facilities and dining halls
- Modification of programs and events for compliance with limits on crowd sizes and social distancing measures
- Enhanced sanitizing and cleaning processes
- Continued use of online and virtual platforms in conjunction with in-person services (a "hybrid" approach) to keep in-person contact at safer levels in the areas of academic instruction, counseling, student life programming, spiritual programming and more
- Changes to campus access for visitors
- Enhanced wellness resources to fully support the unique emotional, spiritual and physical wellness needs of our students, faculty and staff

We will continue to update you as decisions are finalized.

We have received some queries about the construction projects on campus. Since the state did not ever shut down construction, the work on our new residence and dining halls and on the parking garage has continued, and those projects are expected to finish on time. The garage should be completed before the end of August, and the residence halls will be ready for move-in for the spring semester. Everyone on campus has been following the health and safety precautions and guidelines as they went about their work.

SHU's own John Ratzenberger, who you know from Cheers, Empire Strikes Back and every Pixar movie ever made, is spearheading our participation in Tuesday's Giving Tuesday Now, an extension of Giving Tuesday, in response to the great need resulting from the pandemic. In the case of SHU, funds raised will go to the Student Emergency Fund to help our students who have been financially impacted by the virus-related shutdown. To hear John talk about his career and time at SHU (live at noon and then available for viewing) or to make a gift, visit [here](#) on Tuesday.

Since we are not on campus because of the virus, students will need to ship any rental books back to the bookstore. The books are due Wednesday, May 6. You should have received emails that include a free label. Print the label, package up your book(s) and drop the package at a FedEx store. Please include your name, phone number and email address with the book for check-in purposes. You can also generate your free shipping return label in My Account at www.sacredheartshop.com. To accommodate shipping, we have extended our non-return window by 15 days.

The weather is supposed to be nice Saturday and Sunday, so please enjoy the upcoming weekend!

The Coronavirus Planning Team

This message was sent to the following groups: !Campuswide-Students,!Campuswide-Employees