



## **Clarion University Coronavirus Response**

**Campus Communication Update May 19, 2020**

Dear Clarion University community:

I hope everyone is taking care of themselves and their families. While this time normally is used to prepare for the fall semester, we have many challenges. As we endeavor to plan for reopening, all of us have questions about what the fall semester, indeed, what the 2020-21 academic year, will look like.

Our ultimate goal is to welcome students and employees back to campus, but our decisions will be guided, first and foremost, by the safety and welfare of our Clarion University community. We will continue to follow guidance from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education and the state and local health departments.

We are actively engaged in planning, and we are doing so in the face of rapidly evolving data and shifting circumstances. Our plans will impact all of us, and we are committed to a thoughtful approach that is inclusive of the broader campus community.

The core leadership group of the Coronavirus Response Team has been meeting three times a week over the past few months and has kept abreast of all the changes of this pandemic scenario. We have re-established and launched a larger working group that is focused on reopening. This planning group will explore and submit recommendations regarding academic planning, student experience, on-campus housing, events and gatherings, and physical distancing and other health protocols needed for the fall semester. The group, chaired by Tim Fogarty, associate vice president for administration, includes representation from across the university community.

Our provost, deans and faculty have already begun to look at ways to approach academics. We know that many of our traditional students prefer to learn and grow in on-campus class settings. Our campus community also values those face-to-face interactions, but Clarion University is well prepared to continue remote operations, should that be necessary. A fall semester option for remote learning will be in place for students who aren't able to travel to campus safely.

Even though our counties are in the yellow zone, we still must adhere to and practice disease prevention protocols. This means all individuals who can continue to work remotely will do so and will have limited campus access. Further, when on campus for work, we all will wear masks, distance ourselves from others, wash our hands frequently and adhere to other best practices to eliminate spread of this disease.

I ask for your continued patience as we develop plans to have a normal-as-possible year. As the path forward becomes clearer, I will send updates directly to you. Please remain in contact with us and check our website for updates.

Thank you for your continued resilience, patience and kindness to one another.

Wings Up!

Dr. Dale