

## BRYAN COLLEGE COVID Update

Dear Bryan Lions,

Our semester is off to a GREAT start as we settle in for what I hope is a full and exciting Fall 2020 semester.

As you all know we have taken myriad precautions to create as safe an environment as possible on campus. These measures include the sanitizing stations, recommendations for frequent hand-washing, appropriate physical distancing and wearing of face coverings to limit the potential spread of Covid-19. We have also continued to update our protocols based upon best practice in higher education and input from the Tennessee Department of Health, CDC and local municipal authorities.

As you are no doubt aware many schools are in the process of opening or have already started classes. You may also be aware that some have opened and then were forced to move coursework to online for a few weeks due to the outbreak of the COVID virus on their campuses. What we have also seen is that over the last 2-3 weeks schools across the nation have also chosen to tighten their protocols for the wearing of face coverings on and around their campuses in an effort to mitigate the spread of the COVID virus. (An example of several of these schools can be found [here](#)).

As I weigh the counsel from these organizations as well as our internal task-force and integrate this with our responsibility to serve each other, the community we live in and those we come in contact with I have determined that adjustments are needed in our approach. Specifically, the following adjustments to our 'Healthy Fall' (Covid-19) guidance and protocols on campus are effective immediately:

**FACE COVERINGS: Students and employees must wear face covering that covers one's nose and mouth whenever in the presence of others in all indoor public areas and work spaces (e.g., classrooms, library, labs, common areas, offices and dorm halls, etc.), as well as outdoors when safe spacing of 6 feet cannot be maintained.** There will be two exceptions to the above: 1) Face coverings are *not* required for small group meetings in private offices and conference rooms as long as more than *six feet* of physical distancing can be maintained. 2) Faculty are *not* required to wear a face covering in a classroom so long as they maintain more than *six feet* between themselves and students or stand behind the clear plexiglass panel in a classroom.

Since roommates and suitemates live in close proximity, they will be considered cohort/family groups. Therefore, while physical distancing and face coverings are encouraged, these measures are not required within the cohort groups, as long as others (i.e., those outside of the residential cohort) are not present. Again no more than four people permitted in any dorm room at one time, so that remains the same. Students are accountable to themselves and the other members of our campus.

Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to meet these requirements (i.e., those staff members who have pre-existing health issues). Faculty & staff requiring special considerations related to this change should consult with Human Resources. A separate communication will be sent from the Provost office providing further information on Faculty/Student interactions related to this change.

Please know that these changes are not a reaction but a carefully vetted and necessary step designed to reduce the potential spread of COVID and allow us to complete the full Fall semester on the hill.

As we continue to step forward further into this semester I want to encourage each of you, staff, faculty and students, to #DoYourPart for a healthy fall. We must all take personal responsibility in this journey to observe social distancing, proper face coverings and washing your hands diligently. I know you are making good decisions to keep yourself and our community safe from this virus and we ask you continue to be vigilant.

I am deeply grateful to be on this journey with all of you and thank each of you for all you do.

Dr. Mann