



# MEMO

**TO:** Hawk Family

**FROM:** President Anderson

**Date:** June 4, 2020

Greetings Hawk Family –

As I mentioned in a recent message, we have been working on plans to return campus. Please know that we are valuing **health and safety** above all else in our planning. We are balancing what we are learning from **medical and scientific experts** and implementing **new practices** that will help us as we move forward into our new normal.

Also, each University System of Maryland (USM) institution president has been working with Chancellor Perman weekly to ensure that we are consistent in our plans. We are confirming that our plans and practices follow state, federal, executive orders and public health guidelines.

Some of the new practices include:

- Mandatory mask wearing in public and group gatherings
- Temperature checks and symptom screening
- Mandatory physical distancing in all settings
- Establishing an isolation residence hall to be used if needed
- Lower density housing, classes and meetings
- No study abroad
- Using disinfectants meeting or exceeding the EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV

## **When will we return?**

As of today, our plans are to return to campus with a phased-in approach over time. We will phase in the welcoming back of our faculty and staff. The pharmacy program will begin classes on July 20, the physician assistant and physical therapy programs classes on August 31 and the rest of our students classes will begin on August 10. Our current plan has us moving our semester up to begin earlier and end earlier, prior to Thanksgiving, with graduation ceremonies planned for November 20 and 21.

Keep in mind, that this is an evolving situation and new information could change our current course, however, this is our **current working plan**. There will always be exceptions and we know some accommodations will need to be made. All of us will need to be **flexible, creative, and, above all, safe!**

### **Safe and Clean?**

We are working closely with our partners in the community as well as our University System of Maryland to obtain personal protective equipment (PPE) for our faculty, staff, and students as needed. We are installing hand sanitizer stations at all building entrances as a physical reminder to keep hands clean and we are redirecting stairwells as up or down to minimize close contact. Based on EPA guidelines, we have invested in more advanced technology for cleaning our buildings and rooms. We've purchased the Protexus Electrostatic Sprayer and PURTABS that are recommended for cleaning to use against SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19.

Most important, I am going to encourage social responsibility by all of our Hawk TEAM (faculty, staff, students, alumni). The health and safety of our campus community will **depend on each of us doing our part**. We have a shared social responsibility to be **open, honest, and forthcoming** in our communication with one another, to be respectful of each other's space and to stay isolated if you are ill or come in contact with someone who is ill. The virus can only spread via people. It needs a person to be a host and it can use you if you let it. Don't let it!

### **What else?**

There will be much more information coming to specifically address issues for students, faculty, and staff. In addition, I will hold a virtual town hall meeting on June 16 at 10 a.m. to address your questions with a link to be provided. With that in mind, please submit your questions, in advance to [icare@umes.edu](mailto:icare@umes.edu) by June 11 so we can respond. In addition, all information regarding the Return to Campus plan will be posted online at [www.umes.edu/RTC](http://www.umes.edu/RTC). Keep checking this site on a regular basis for updated details and watch your email.

Finally, please continue to follow state guidelines and take care of yourself and your loved ones. I look forward to welcoming everyone safely back on campus very soon.

With Hawk Pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi M. Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Heidi M. Anderson