



## Statement to the St. Louis College of Pharmacy Community

DATE: Monday, June 1, 2020  
TO: All Students, All Faculty, All Staff  
FROM: John A. Pieper, Pharm.D., FCCP, FAPhA, President of the College  
RE: Important Campus and COVID-19 Updates

Students, Faculty and Staff:

I hope you and your families are safe and healthy.

As states and cities across our region and the country begin to reopen, we are carefully monitoring updates and changes in recommendations. At St Louis College of Pharmacy, work is underway to return to on-campus operations in preparation for the fall semester.

Today, I will outline some of the steps we have taken on campus.

### ACADEMIC CHANGES

While all remaining summer 2020 didactic instruction will occur online, we are planning to return to on-campus instruction for fall 2020. **However, we will adjust the academic calendar to begin one week early and allow students to leave campus and not return after the Thanksgiving holiday.**

Many institutions are utilizing this approach for several reasons. It reduces the amount of travel for students, during which they could be exposed. Also, by eliminating the need for students to return after Thanksgiving, it prevents members of the College community from traveling, being exposed elsewhere, and then returning to campus to possibly expose others.

The fall 2020 academic calendar will be as follows:

- August 17 – Start of the semester, classes begin (classes start one week earlier; accommodations will be made for students who are finishing summer IPPEs during this week — further information will be provided at a later date)
- September 7 – Labor Day, no classes (no change)
- October 12 – Fall Break, no classes (reduced from two days to one day)
- November 23-24 – Lab final exams (on campus)
- November 25-27 – Thanksgiving Break, no classes (no change)
- November 30-December 2 – Final exam study days (students not on campus)
- December 3-4, 7-9 – Final exams (administered online)

The complete academic calendar has been updated and can be reviewed online at [stlcop.edu/events/academic-calendar.html](http://stlcop.edu/events/academic-calendar.html).

We are also preparing contingency plans for scenarios in which new information, guidelines or recommendations from local, regional or national agencies prevent us from completing the fall semester on campus. A number of options are being examined by faculty, president's staff and the Emergency Management Executive Group utilizing various methods of instruction ranging from entirely on-campus to entirely online.

As our reopening moves forward along with St. Louis and surrounding communities, public health and safety guidelines are being clarified, and we are closely monitoring the levels of COVID-19 cases in our area.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY ON CAMPUS**

While we are eager to return to campus, it is important that we prepare for a "new normal." The College is establishing reopening standards and guidelines in alignment with the city of St. Louis. We also are implementing additional measures on campus to support the health and safety of our community. All of us will commit to prioritize the health and safety of the campus community by complying with the following:

### **Face Coverings**

- All students, employees, and approved visitors and vendors on campus must wear cloth or surgical masks unless they are alone in an enclosed space or outside alone at a socially safe distance from others.
- The College is securing a bulk supply of face masks that can be requested, and students, faculty and staff may also use their own masks. It is your responsibility to maintain and clean your mask. Even those who are well and asymptomatic can unknowingly put those around them at risk, so wearing masks is important for protecting our community.

### **Social Distancing**

- Last week, I shared with you that in our residence halls, room assignments will be made to ensure that **all students living on campus are assigned to single bedrooms for the 2020-21 year**. While students may still have suitemates, there will be no double rooms assigned for the coming year.
- The Office of Student Affairs will place signage in the residence halls to provide guidance on social distancing requirements.
- Maximum capacities will be adjusted in elevators, study rooms, waiting areas and office/work spaces including the Testing Center, Writing Center, etc.
- Meetings will be conducted virtually whenever possible.
- At this time, certain employees, as directed by their supervisor, may come to campus on scheduled days and times, allowing for work alone in a space or in a density that allows for maximizing the distance between coworkers.
- While on campus, all campus community members must adhere to the distancing recommendations. If two people are together in an enclosed space, masks must be worn.
- Social distancing should be practiced in all places on campus, including hallways, elevators, lavatories and stairwells. As the number of individuals on campus increases, we will

- implement and communicate additional measures regarding restrooms and the flow of people on campus.
- Classrooms, learning, study and open lounge spaces have been reconfigured to add space between chairs and tables, and in some spaces, physical barriers have been added. Access to certain spaces could be restricted for the time being.

### **Health Screenings**

- Students will be required to complete a self-administered online health screening before coming to campus or leaving their residence hall, and once on campus, must complete a self-administered temperature check at a kiosk station before attending their courses.

### **CDC Infection-Control Recommendations**

Follow [guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) in order to prevent the spread of the virus:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Our return to campus will be a complex process, but we are working hard to take every precaution. As our environment changes, we will respond, and changes will be shared with you.

I hope you all have a great week and take care of yourselves. Each and every one of you are vital to our community, and I want to personally thank you for your hard work, patience and perseverance as we work through this pandemic. Stay safe!

Continue to monitor your College email and [stlcp.edu/covid19](http://stlcp.edu/covid19) for updates.