



UNIVERSITY OF  
**HEALTH SCIENCES  
& PHARMACY**  
in St. Louis

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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## **Statement to the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy in St. Louis Community**

DATE: Thursday, Oct. 22, 2020  
TO: All Students, All Faculty, All Staff  
FROM: John A. Pieper, Pharm.D., FCCP, FAPhA, President of the University  
RE: Important Campus and COVID-19 Updates

Students, Faculty and Staff:

It has been several weeks since I last updated you on our ongoing COVID-19 response planning. Today, I have a few updates to share with you, but first, let me say how proud I am of what we have accomplished so far. Your flexibility and commitment to the health and safety of our community has allowed us to navigate this semester safely and successfully. Soon, we will prepare for final exams, and I encourage you to review the Fall 2020 Academic Calendar and your course schedules. Our last day of in-person instruction will be Tuesday, Nov. 24.

For students living in University housing, we strongly encourage you to take everything you need for Winter Break when you depart for Thanksgiving after the last day of classes. Since all final exams will be administered online, you will not need to return to campus until the start of spring classes on Monday, Jan. 11, 2021. However, if you choose to return to campus after Thanksgiving, campus will remain open, and campus buildings will be open during business hours through the end of final exams. As a reminder, the residence halls will close for break beginning at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 9, and campus will close for winter break Thursday, Dec. 24, through Friday, Jan. 1, 2021.

As we look ahead to the end of the fall semester, we are also preparing for the spring semester. It is clear that we will continue to face a pandemic environment, and we must continue the precautions we have put in place to ensure the ongoing

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**Discovery** begins here.



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protection of our students, faculty and staff. For the Spring 2021 semester, please be aware of the updates below.

### **Academic Calendar**

The Academic Calendar for Spring 2021 will not change, and classes will begin on Monday, Jan. 11. You may review the 2020-21 Academic Calendar online at [uhsp.edu/academiccalendar](http://uhsp.edu/academiccalendar).

Students should expect the spring semester to look and feel similar to the fall semester with options to attend lectures in-person or virtually. We will carefully evaluate student and faculty feedback from the fall, and we may make changes to exam administration and teaching and learning strategies to enhance your learning experience.

### **Ongoing Health and Safety Measures**

Students, faculty and staff must continue to observe physical distancing, wearing of face masks, frequent hand washing and other measures to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 spread. Completion of the Daily Wellness Screening prior to coming to campus is still required, and the screening may be accessed online at [uhsp.edu/covid19](http://uhsp.edu/covid19). We will prioritize on-campus course delivery and campus engagement for the spring semester, and staff who do not need to be on campus to perform their job functions will remain working remotely. Creating the safest educational environment is our highest priority, and continuing our efforts to de-densify campus will keep an additional layer of protection for on-campus instruction, learning and living.

If you have not done so already, I encourage each of you to get your influenza vaccination as soon as possible to protect yourself and those around you. Pharmacists play a critical role in helping patients protect themselves during flu season. Dr. Michelle Jeon, Pharm.D., BCACP, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, has been serving as a resource to local media outlets to educate patients on the importance of getting a flu shot. Learn more about why a flu vaccine is especially critical this year at [uhsp.edu/news](http://uhsp.edu/news).



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## Testing Protocols

UHSP has recently partnered with a third-party vendor to administer saliva-based PCR tests for the COVID-19 virus to all students residing in University housing. Beginning the week of Nov. 9, 2020, all residents will begin testing every two weeks, with half of all residents participating one week and the other half participating the following week, and so on.

In addition, all residence life students will be required to complete COVID-19 testing and submit a negative test result prior to returning to campus following the winter and spring breaks. Additional details will be distributed as we get closer to the winter break.

We are all eager to return to in-person learning and recreation activities, but we must continue to take care of ourselves and each other. Thanks to your leadership, commitment and adaptability, I am confident that we will successfully navigate the spring semester.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. PIEPER, Pharm.D., FCCP, FAPhA, FFIP  
President and Professor