

## SU COVID-19 Update - Move to All Online instruction, Athletic Practices Paused for Semester

To the Stevenson Campus Community,

Since our [Campus COVID-19 Testing & Case Update](#) sent November 10, an additional 16 students have tested positive for COVID-19 through on-campus or off-campus testing. These 16 students include a third cluster of student-athletes who live on campus. This is in addition to the two clusters of student-athletes who live off campus reported in the prior update. Our Contact Response Team and case managers are assisting the affected students with their isolation and quarantine protocols. Fortunately, the symptoms reported by the students have been mild to moderate in nature.

In addition to the student cases, five individuals employed by contractual vendors who serve the campus have reported positive tests since the November 10<sup>th</sup> Update. In these cases, vendor-established safety protocols were followed: the individuals are in isolation, contact tracing was initiated, and areas where they worked were given enhanced cleaning and sanitizing.

While our random surveillance testing program has resulted in only two of 89 students testing positive for COVID-19 over the past two weeks, there is clearly an overall trend that is mirroring our state's and nation's rising infection rates.

Given the dramatic increase of cases in Maryland and the cases reported above, we have conferred with the Baltimore County Department of Health and, based on their guidance, we will be implementing two significant steps for the remainder of the Fall semester:

### 1. All Academic Instruction to Move Online

**The Provost and Deans will be working with faculty to move all courses online, beginning on Wednesday, November 18, with the goal of ensuring all courses are online by Monday, November 23.** Deans, program leaders, and faculty will be in touch with students to relay information and answer specific questions. During the period of online instruction, students in clinicals, internships, and other external placements should continue to follow the guidance of their sites.

It is important to note that this action is taken out of an abundance of caution given uncertainty regarding the prevalence of infection in the immediate future and not because of reported faculty cases or evidence of spread of infection within classrooms at Stevenson.

In this context, we have had only one positive faculty case during the entire semester, and there has been no demonstrated evidence that this case was related to spread of infection via the classroom. We are glad to report that our faculty member's symptoms were mild, and that they have completed their isolation protocol and are now feeling fine.

Similarly, we have no evidence of any student-to-student transmission within a classroom. These successes are a testament to the commitment of our faculty, staff, and students to classroom hygiene and safety, and the work of our administrative staff in creating our classroom procedures. We recognize all of these groups for their efforts to support in-person instruction.

As we look to the Spring semester, our dedicated faculty and staff will continue to provide students with face-to-face and remote instructional options to meet their diverse needs.

### 2. All Athletic Practices Paused Through End of Semester

**The current pause on all athletic team practices will be extended to the end of the Fall 2020 semester.** Coaches and Athletics Department staff will continue to work with student-athletes during the remainder of the semester, supporting students' efforts to complete their remaining academic work successfully and continue their athletic and academic preparation for the Spring semester.

This pause in practices is being taken to prevent the further spread of infection among student-athletes and teams, particularly given that some students are asymptomatic when they test positive and thus may inadvertently spread infection to other athletes or athletic staff. It is important to note that evidence suggests that cases which have been confirmed among student-athletes are likely to have resulted from activities outside of athletic practices or conditioning. We will continue to work with all of our students on ways to minimize the risks of spreading COVID 19

due to social contact. We look forward to resuming athletic practices and competition, under enhanced testing protocols, in the Spring.

#### **Residence Halls and Campus Services Remain Open**

In the context of these important changes, we wish to emphasize that the Residence Halls, food service and Coffee House, campus study areas, fitness centers, computer laboratories, the Greenspring Campus Library, and School of Business Library remain open and available to students through the end of the semester. Similarly, our Wellness Center services, including testing capacities, and all campus administrative services, remain available.

Additionally, to support student access to specialized equipment and supplies needed for their courses, studio spaces in the School of Design, the Biomedical Engineering lab in the School of the Sciences, and the Inscape Theatre will remain available to students through the end of the semester.

#### **Don't Lower Your Guard Because of COVID Fatigue**

For all students, whether residing on campus or off campus, we urge extreme caution and dedicated compliance with the safety protocols that we have outlined repeatedly through our [Keep Stevenson Safe](#) messages and videos. As a state and a nation, we are entering a very challenging period of the pandemic, and we must remain committed to following the health and safety measures that we know limit the spread of the virus:

- Wear our masks
- Physically distance from others at least 6 feet, indoors and out
- Avoid crowds and large gatherings
- Avoid even small gatherings in enclosed spaces such as small rooms and vehicles where you cannot properly physically distance from others
- Don't dismiss possible COVID symptoms. If you feel sick, stay home or in your room and contact the SU Wellness Center and 443-352-4200 or [wellness@stevenson.edu](mailto:wellness@stevenson.edu) for assistance.
- Monitor daily for COVID symptoms and use the online Student Symptom Tracker (<https://stevenson.medicatconnect.com>)

These measures work, and it is essential for all of us to follow them. Through your responsible actions, you are protecting your families and friends, our campus community, and the greater community. Thank you for every small step you take to keep others safe and for your extraordinary efforts that have helped keep our campus open and community strong throughout these challenging months.

Sincerely,

Elliot Hirshman  
President

Antionette J. Marbray  
Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer, COVID Operations

To access our bi-weekly Campus COVID-19 Dashboard, visit: <https://www.stevenson.edu/COVIDdashboard>.