



North Hennepin
Community College

A member of Minnesota State

Engaging students, changing lives

May 22, 2020
1:45 p.m.

Dear Colleagues:

These are ever-changing times. We know there are a number of hurdles to overcome; collectively we will accomplish the Chancellor's directive and guidance by focusing our efforts on these two priorities:

- **To safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of our faculty, staff, and students**
- **To enable students to progress toward their educational goal**

NEW GUIDANCE FROM OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION (OHE)

We've received guidance from the Office of Higher Education on the governor's recent [Emergency Executive Order 20-56](#) allowing non-critical businesses to begin reopening on May 18. The [new guidance is available on OHE's website](#). Below are some of the key points:

- Services and courses that can be delivered remotely should continue to be delivered remotely.
- For any in-person activity to resume, campuses must have a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan, including training for employees. Masks and face coverings are strongly encouraged per the Minnesota Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control guidelines.
 - Campuses can conduct in-person instruction in any credit and non-credit program as long as the group size is no larger than 10 (including instructors and staff). This includes summer courses, and students completing spring semester not covered by [Emergency Executive Order 20-52](#). ([Here's the list of programs in critical sectors](#) providing in-person instruction to students in their final term that *are not subject* to the gathering size limitation, and can hold courses of sizes larger than 10.)
 - NHCC Pandemic Taskforce will likely recommend to the Provost to not offer any face-to-face instruction prior to July Summer Session, to give our reintegration subcommittee time to COVID-19 proof our campus as much as possible. More to follow.
- Campuses can conduct other business, such as admissions visits for prospective students, as long as the group size is no larger than 10 and social distancing strategies are in place. NHCC is still analyzing how/when to implement.

SEMESTER START DATES FOR FY21 IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- Per [Minnesota State Board Policy 3.34](#), campuses will have flexibility for alternative start dates. Campuses need to communicate a clear plan to the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs who will seek the Chancellor's approval.

Better Together,

Stephen E. Kent

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