Engaging students, changing lives

December 18, 2020

Dear Colleagues and Students:

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

POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES
This past week, five employees and four students tested positive for COVID-19. There were no additional possible exposures.

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER
Governor Walz issued Emergency Executive Order 20-103 effective Friday, December 18, 2020 at 11:59 pm, through Sunday, January 10, 2021 at 11:59 pm extending and modifying Executive Order 20-99. As we approach winter break, please take note of the updated guidance on social settings:

- Two households may gather indoors, 10 people max.
- Three households may gather outdoors, 15 people max.
- Masks are strongly encouraged and social distancing must be maintained.
- Visit the Stay Safe Minnesota website for more information.

REMINDERS

- Saliva Kit Deadline Extended to January 30. All Minnesota State employees can visit Employee Home to access a free saliva test kit from Vault Health. Click here to view FAQs, and click here to view a Testing Process Video.
- New Contract Tracing App Available. The Minnesota Department of Health released a new app, COVID aware MN to help with contract tracing. The app notifies you if you’ve been near someone who tested positive for COVID-19. If you test positive, you can use the app to anonymously notify anyone you’ve been near. For more information, watch a video at https://youtu.be/Hw_rbScGBCE.

FUTURE COVID-19 COMMUNICATION
The next email update and COVID-19 open forum are scheduled for January 8, 2021. At the open forum, Paul Melchior and Julia Ugorji will be discussing the COVID-19 vaccine.

Better Together,

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