Special New Year greetings!

We hope this email finds you healthy and rested after your holiday break. As we continue to plan for the start of spring semester, here’s some important information for you. We have shared this information with your student as well.

**JAN. 10 INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS**

At 6 p.m. EST, you are invited to a **Parents & Families Informational Meeting**, to hear about our updated spring 2021 COVID guidelines, with a Q&A session to follow. The Zoom link for this meeting is: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Egws6y34Tru9Im3ExxbE2g](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Egws6y34Tru9Im3ExxbE2g).

At 8 p.m. EST, students are invited to attend a **Town Hall** to hear more about the spring return plan, updated protocols and athletics news. Students can log into myEMU to access the Zoom links calendar.

**TO KNOW RIGHT NOW**

Your student should:

- Contact the COVID Hotline if they test positive, [covidhotline@emu.edu](mailto:covidhotline@emu.edu) or call 540-421-3406.
Resume the Daily Symptom Tracker to begin monitoring wellness and possible symptoms.

Quarantine in place before arrival to campus (more information below).

Be knowledgeable about return to campus protocols, including that residential students will be tested upon arrival to campus. For move-in sign up and details, they should check the Housing tab on myEMU. You can learn more at our FAQs under the subject “Returning to Campus for Spring Semester.”

Plan travel details to maintain COVID safety.

Check email to stay up-to-date with information we are sending.

QUARANTINE IN PLACE

We asked students to do this before they left campus to return home. We are asking that they also follow these guidelines before returning to campus. Quarantine in place means

- limiting the number of close contacts (within 6 feet) you have,
- wearing your face covering for protection during essential activities like work or grocery shopping,
- maintaining appropriate distance during essential activities, including exercise,
- washing your hands before touching your face,
- prioritizing social gatherings that are virtual,
- not participating in events with crowds,
- avoiding travel to areas of high COVID cases: VA hot spots and U.S. hot spots,
- continuing good hand-washing hygiene, such as washing hands before and after touching your face and after touching public or high-touch surfaces.

SPRING SEMESTER TESTING

EMU Health Services will provide COVID testing for all students who are symptomatic or exposed throughout the semester. Two types of nasal swab tests will be used: Rapid Antigen for those who are symptomatic and PCR tests for those who have been exposed or are symptomatic and have had a negative Rapid Antigen test. The Rapid Antigen test will give results in 15 minutes. The PCR test results will be available within 36 hours of testing unless the testing is done on Friday. Health insurance is billed for all tests and visits. If you do not have insurance, there will be no charge for the test itself but there will be a very modest charge for the nurse visit.
• All students will be supported with health and wellbeing support if COVID positive. Residential students will be quarantined or isolated in on-campus and off-campus spaces. Based on CDC guidelines, isolation is for 10 days from a positive test. Quarantine is for 10 days to monitor symptoms and prevent transmission. Quarantined students will be tested on day 7 to confirm a negative test.

VACCINE

• We do not anticipate availability of a vaccine for most students, staff or faculty during this semester, but we continue to get updates from the Virginia Department of Health. The vaccine will not be available through EMU Health Services.

MORE INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS?

• [EMU’s COVID-19 webpage](https://www.EMU.edu), with Frequently Asked Questions and more information, is updated on a daily basis. All of the information in this email is available there.

• I’m happy to be a resource as well.

Bring your questions to the Parent & Families Informational Meeting on Sunday. We look forward to seeing you then!

Sincerely,

Jennifer

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