

Dear EMU at Lancaster faculty, staff, and students,

On Friday, June 5, Lancaster County will move from Red to Yellow status of the phased plan for reopening Pennsylvania. On Wednesday, June 3, we received initial guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education on resuming in-person instruction at post-secondary education institutions. Of specific relevance to EMU at Lancaster is the provision that “clinical training and field experience for all individuals preparing for licensure and certification” are permitted in the yellow phase. This preliminary guidance also outlines specific considerations for resuming in-person instruction and other operations, guidance with which we are preparing to comply in anticipation of resumption of in-person instruction beginning fall 2020.

Since the state’s initial stay-at-home order, EMU at Lancaster has remained operational, carrying out classes and our day-to-day work remotely, with the exception of cessation of flight training for our aviation students. At this time, we expect faculty and staff at EMU at Lancaster will continue to telework through the summer and all courses will remain online. However, based on this week’s guidance, aviation flight training at ATS will resume as soon as appropriate health and safety protocols are approved. As noted above, we anticipate resumption of in-person instruction at our Charter Lane site at the start of fall semester.

As EMU at Lancaster’s associate provost, I assure you that our most important priority, as we prepare to resume in-person instruction, continues to be to develop the health and safety protocols that will lead to our ability to occupy our physical location safely. We are planning a gradual, phased transition, one with detailed protocols that are in accordance with the Commonwealth’s public health criteria, with the knowledge that life over the next academic year will likely be quite different from what we have known in the past. There is still a lot of uncertainty ahead of us and much of what we do will require us to be flexible, with the ability to shift our plans, if necessary, as the fight against this virus continues.

The Lancaster Leadership Team (myself, Lisa Campbell, Marcia Root, John Sibole, Julie Siegfried, Catherine Stover, and Linda Witmer) has been working well in advance of PDE guidance, using CDC and Association of College Health Association recommendations to identify and plan for the accommodations that we anticipated would be required. Now that we have state-specific considerations, we will move to the implementation phase of our planning. Broadly speaking, our planning has focused on three areas: protecting the health and safety of our people, preparing our space for an extended period of social distancing, and planning flexible scenarios for our academic programs. Some examples of those particulars include the following:

- **People**

- Establish protocols for effective social distancing and use of masks.
- Ensure that all staff and faculty are following personal safety protocols.
- Develop and implement regular health screening and testing protocols as appropriate for different members of the community.
- Establish processes and protocols for students or employees who are exposed or fall ill and need to isolate.

- Develop a plan for phased re-entry.
 - Create plans for staggered work schedules and the continuation of remote work where possible or necessary.
 - Coordinate with local public health officials to develop administrative policies that support faculty and staff who are unwell and/or have been in close contact with someone who is sick or who are at high risk for COVID-19.
- **Spaces**
 - Plan for safe access to and movement within the building.
 - Evaluate appropriate density for all occupied spaces to allow for social distancing.
 - Inventory instructional spaces to determine enrollment caps for courses taught in those spaces.
 - Determine appropriate air handling in public spaces and classrooms.
 - Establish cleaning protocols for all occupied spaces and procure appropriate supplies.
 - Develop quarantine and isolation protocols for the entire community.
- **Programs**
 - Redesign courses in flexible in-person and online modalities so that courses can be accessed in-person and/or remotely as individual and public health concerns emerge.
 - Explore and implement technology solutions that further support student learning both on and off site and support the faculty's ability to teach in a variety of settings and formats.
 - Identify additional training needs for faculty and staff in order to provide, through digital means as necessary, the supportive learning community central to our value proposition.

What I have shared only gives a high-level view of the complexity of re-opening our site amidst this pandemic. An official EMU at Lancaster Health and Safety Plan will be made available to the public no later than August 1, 2020 and will also be communicated directly to students, faculty, and staff. I intend to provide further updates on June 15, as we anticipate having received additional information from PDE by that time. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns regarding our re-opening plan, please contact me directly.

In closing, I want to express my deep gratitude to our students, faculty, and staff, all of whom have demonstrated great adaptability and flexibility as required adjustments were made in response to COVID-19 disruptions. Your willingness to hang in there with us has put us in a strong position to continue to serve students by providing relevant, timely programming and to support workforce development in Lancaster County and beyond.

Leading Together!

Mary

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Associate Provost

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