

Wednesday, June 24, 2020 (12:46 pm)
– COVID-19 Updates

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to provide some updates regarding COVID-19 planning as we prepare for the Fall 2020 semester.

The [COVID-19 Working Groups](#) continue to work through scenarios and develop plans for operational returns to campus. Several recent updates have been provided including:

- [Face Covering Policy](#): Requires students, faculty, staff, and visitors to wear face coverings in hallways, public spaces, classrooms, and other common areas of campus buildings. Face coverings also are required when people are unable to maintain 6 feet social distancing – even inside an office or outside on K-State campuses.
- [Classroom Assessment and Planning](#): A team has been formed to assess university and departmental classrooms for classroom capacities, IT capability, and ventilation. This work will be completed in the coming weeks to provide needed information for departments and faculty for course planning.
- [Fall 2020 Calendar updates](#): The Fall 2020 semester start date up a week to Monday, August 17th with prep/dead week and finals week taking place remotely following Thanksgiving break. [Commencement](#) will be held November 20th on the K-State Polytechnic campus and November 23 – 24 on the Manhattan campus.
- [Residence halls and dining centers](#): Will open for the Fall 2020 semester and will incorporate extra health and safety measures.
- [The Union](#): Will reopen August 3rd and will incorporate extra health and safety measures.

Additional information will come out soon as the Working Groups continue to finalize plans, and this information will be communicated to the K-State Community. Please refer to the [K-State COVID-19 page](#) for up-to-date information.

Budget and Furloughs: The core budget team now has a better idea of the overall budget for FY21. There will not need to be a central university administrative furlough, but there are units that have decided to deploy administrative furloughs in order to manage budget deficits. Employees have choices about how furloughs are administered and whether or not they prefer to take temporary pay reductions versus furloughs. Human Capital Services has created an [Administrative Furlough Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) page](#) that I encourage you to review. Faculty Senate has relayed numerous questions from faculty and staff to Human Capital Services. If you have any concerns, please send those to your [Faculty Senate representatives](#) or me (mmarkham@ksu.edu).

Employees facing financial hardships due to COVID-19 furloughs may apply for [#KStateStrong Emergency Response Funds](#) up to \$700.

I appreciate the work each of you do for the K-State community. If I can be of any service or assistance, please let me know.

Thank you,

Mindy

Mindy Stafford Markham, PhD, CFLE
Faculty Senate President
Associate Professor
Associate Department Head for Academic Affairs
Department of Applied Human Sciences
Kansas State University
316 Justin Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506
mmarkham@ksu.edu