

May 8, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

As you may have heard just moments ago from Gov. Tom Wolf, Butler County is one of 13 western Pennsylvanian counties that will be transitioning from a red phase to yellow phase on May 15. The transition is part of the state's reopening from the COVID-19 pandemic and with that move, it's important to understand exactly what that change means for Slippery Rock University.

When regions or counties move into the yellow phase, some restrictions on work and social interaction will ease, while others, including closures of schools, gyms and other indoor recreation centers, hair and nail salons, and limitations around large gatherings, remain in place.

Despite the move from red to yellow, it does not mean that it will be "business as usual" for SRU. In fact, not much will change at all.

A county that is designated as yellow still requires its citizens to continue teleworking where feasible and for schools to remain closed to in-person instruction. With that in mind, SRU will continue to operate in the manner in which it currently does, with only essential employees – University Police, IATS, Student Health Center and Facilities personnel – on campus. And for those employees on campus, the University will continue to adhere to social distancing, proper hygiene, monitoring of health conditions and wearing a mask when in close proximity to other individuals.

Additionally, the move from red to yellow will see the SRU/SGA Preschool and Child Care Center resume regular hours of operation in compliance with CDC, DHS and DOH guidance. Information regarding the process to re-enroll will be provided to families that were being served prior to program closure.

Should you need to request to be on campus for work-related purposes or to retrieve some materials, prior authorization is required. Employees will need to complete a [Building Access Request/Notification form](#) at least three business days prior to being on campus.

Not until Butler County is moved from yellow to green will the University operate any differently than it presently does.

The green phase eases most restrictions by lifting the stay-at-home and business closure orders to allow the economy to strategically reopen while continuing to prioritize public health. While this phase will facilitate a return to a "new normal," it will be equally important to continue to monitor public health indicators and adjust orders and restrictions as necessary to ensure the spread of disease remains at a minimum.

Specific information as to what exactly the green phase will mean in terms of University personnel returning to campus and to in-person operations will be announced in the coming weeks, dependent upon an announcement by the governor's office. However, please know that regardless of University-specific details, SRU will certainly be adhering to all CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Health guidelines and monitoring public health indicators. The University will be doing so to adjust operations accordingly in order to ensure the health and safety of our entire University community.

More information will be shared as it becomes available. In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns, please contact the Office of Emergency Management at 724.738.2465 or [emergencymanagement@sru.edu](mailto:emergencymanagement@sru.edu) or Human Resources at [sru-humanresources@sru.edu](mailto:sru-humanresources@sru.edu).

Best,

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Chief Human Resources Officer

Paul Novak  
Executive Director of Facilities, Planning and Environmental Safety