

June 4, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

As you are all aware, Butler County will be transitioning from the yellow to green phase tomorrow, June 5, as part of the state's reopening from the COVID-19 pandemic. While that will mark a significant step forward for our community, it does not mean that Slippery Rock University will be back to "business as usual."

While green is the "most open" of the phases, allowing for the lifting of the stay-at-home order and for most businesses to strategically reopen, it is important to continue prioritizing public health. As such, we must all continue to adhere to CDC guidelines, including the use of face masks and social distancing. At SRU, the use of face masks by staff, faculty and students will be **required** when persons are within less than 6 feet of one another in order to mitigate the potential spread of the virus.

As we work toward our fall semester, we will phase in on-campus work. We will do so in each University division in accordance with the business needs of that division as well as the physical limitations of that area's workspace. In general, returning to work on campus will involve staggered works shifts and limited face-to-face interaction. In-person meetings will be limited.

The timing of each individual's return to work will also be dependent on acquiring the proper cleaning and personal protection for that person's workspace. Appropriate cleaning and protective equipment have been ordered. We are still awaiting delivery of some items. With that in mind, employees should be on the lookout for communication from their supervisors in the coming days as to how their specific return to on-campus work will occur. In the meantime, you will be expected to work in the manner that you have for the past several weeks. For the foreseeable future, we will continue to pick up mail at the University Union.

We realize that these measures may be disruptive but please understand that any changes are designed to help us to maintain our commitment to providing the safest possible working environment, while respecting the concerns of our employees, personally and professionally.

As part of providing a safe work environment, I'd like to remind everyone that the CDC recommends:

- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose and eyes.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with your arm or a tissue.
- Avoid exposure to others who are sick.
- Stay home while you are ill (except to visit a health care professional) and avoid close contact with others.
- Get adequate sleep and eat well-balanced meals to ensure a healthy immune system.

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

While we certainly don't have all the answers, I am certain that our dedicated faculty and staff will continue to serve our students well, either on campus or while working remotely.

We will make it through this pandemic together and continue to make SRU the best and strongest that it can be.

Best,

Bill