

PARENT COVID COMMUNICATION UPDATE_July 14

Parents -

We hope your week is off to a good start. This week, we have three important items to highlight that were shared on Monday with your student in an email from **Al Sturgeon**, vice president of student life and dean of students.

CHAPEL MODIFICATIONS

The pandemic has created the need to make a few modifications to chapel in the coming year. We will continue to require chapel attendance based on our belief that chapel can contribute to positive spiritual formation, but our approach will shift from requiring students to scan in and acquire a specific number of credits to requiring that students attend 80% of The Gathering opportunities on Tuesday as well as 80% of a specific Breakout Chapel that students will choose. The Gathering and Breakout Chapels will meet throughout the semester. We will talk through the logistics of those requirements later on, but I wanted you to be aware of the modifications.

The Gathering itself will occur in an online format throughout the fall semester, and instead of bringing in outside speakers it will be led by Lipscomb faculty, staff, and students. Dr. Sturgeon and the team in the Office of Spiritual Formation are working to develop many more Breakout Chapel offerings for students to choose from, including offerings at alternative times and several that meet only by Zoom. The Gathering will be recorded for viewing at times other than the “live” sessions so students can more easily fit the viewing into their busy schedules.

COMMUNITY LIFE

The Office of Community Life, along with student leaders, has been working hard to provide an exciting and engaging experience while also caring for student health and wellbeing and have created new and unique opportunities for you to get involved on campus, make new friends, and create lasting memories. There will be more information to come, but in the meantime, here are a few things to know that will help your student be prepared for the fall:

- Since Nashville guidelines will limit the number of students that can gather at one time, the fun programs, events, and activities offered throughout the semester will require students to sign up and reserve their spot rather than simply showing up. However, these same events will be offered multiple times to give more students the opportunity to participate.
- There will be more opportunities and invitations to have student meetings and gatherings virtually.
- The amount of seating in the lower and main levels of the Bennett Campus Center will be reduced by roughly 50% to encourage physical distancing.

SODEXO AND DINING ON CAMPUS

Sodexo provides all dining services on campus. For the fall semester, Sodexo will implement enhanced health and sanitation procedures, including wearing appropriate PPE, constant cleaning, increased hand sanitizer stations and daily monitoring of their employees' health. Their staff will be working the registers behind plexiglass barriers as well as floor decals marking social distancing guidelines for those waiting in lines. Seating capacity in all dining areas will be limited to 50% until health guidelines allow otherwise, and no personal, refillable containers will be allowed in any dining location for the health and safety of the community.

What will the Bison Café be like?

- Stations will no longer be self-served, but attended by a staff member.
- Disposable, eco-friendly cutlery kits with salt, pepper, and napkin will be distributed to all guests for each meal.
- Introducing the “Bison On the Go” program – i.e., new areas that allow meal swipes for hot and/or cold packaged food items during lunch and dinner service.
- Signs will be used that guests will leave at his/her seat after meals that signals, to incoming guests and dining hall staff, that the area has not been sanitized. This provides our cleaning staff a visual aid during peak meal times to help pinpoint the areas in need of cleaning.
- No reuse of plates or cups by a guest for refills.

What will the Food Court be like?

- Chick-Fil-A has been remodeled to offer a full-service experience rather than self-service.
- No self-service drink stations—only bottled beverages will be available.
- Disposable, eco-friendly cutlery kits with salt, pepper and napkin will be distributed to all guests for each meal.
- TOSS added a new ordering system to help minimize guest contact.

Web Resources

For more detailed information, please visit the [Return to Campus](#) website or email questions to COVIDquestions@lipscomb.edu.

As you can see, we are preparing for our students to return to a campus that is full service and ready to provide for their needs. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you and your students.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Carroll
Assistant Vice President for Annual Giving and Alumni & Parent Engagement