

PARENT COVID COMMUNICATION UPDATE_July 28

Parents -

Classes begin in just under a month and we eagerly anticipate the safe return of students to campus very soon!

On Friday afternoon Lipscomb President Randy Lowry emailed parents an invitation to attend the virtual **Parents' Q&A with the President and University Administrators THIS Thursday, July 30, at 7:30 p.m. (CDT)**. President Lowry and several other university administrators will answer your questions and give you the latest information in this meeting that will be hosted live on Zoom Webinar. (The link will be sent to parents prior to the event.)

We hope you will be able to join us to learn more about the reopening of campus and the start of in-person classes in less than 30 days! We believe this is an important opportunity for us to address any concerns you may have and to answer your questions in regards to academics, student life, residential life and health and wellness. Mark your calendars and make plans to be a part of this special event.

Below is an email that **Al Sturgeon**, vice president of student life and dean of students, sent to your student yesterday. We wanted to share it with you today. These are the items Dean Sturgeon shared in that email.

#1: SERIOUS TALK

With the significant increase in COVID-19 cases in Nashville recently, Mayor John Cooper explained that Nashville citizens can either wear masks, social distance, and wash hands as a community or face shutting down the city again. I want to talk straight with you—we face a similar situation on campus at Lipscomb University. We all want to have campus open and have a terrific year, but if we—students, faculty, and staff—do not comply with the health and safety standards that we are carefully adopting, the virus can easily spread and lead to a campus shutdown that none of us wants to see happen. So we all need to be on board and commit to help make this semester on campus happen together.

With that in mind, we are convinced that our faculty, staff, and student body have the maturity and the respect for one another to adhere to the health expectations necessary. If we did not believe that to be true, we would not reopen the campus in August. But we need not only your commitment to success—we also need you to hold your friends and peers accountable and reach out to my office when you need our help. For those living off campus, follow local guidelines meticulously, and for those living on campus, we strongly encourage you to remain on campus as much as possible to prevent the spread of the virus. We will and must enforce our standards, so come prepared to wear masks, wash your hands, practice social distancing, and make sure there are no large gatherings on or off campus. We can do this, but again, it will have to be accomplished together.

#2: THINGS TO BE EXCITED ABOUT!

Now, we are not going to let any virus keep us from having an amazing student experience on campus! In addition to classics like ongoing trivia nights, social clubs, student organizations, and OID events, here is a sampling of NEW things you should really be excited about:

- 1. Fitness Fridays:** Getting outdoors and exercising is more important than ever, and as a result our campus recreation department is instituting “Fitness Fridays” this fall. We will offer a new fitness event or activity that is different and unique at least every other Friday that will feature new locations on campus and both external and internal trainers and instructors.
- 2. Discover the Artist in You with SAB:** Now is the time for creativity, and the Student Activities Board in partnership with the CEA will provide regular opportunities for you to learn new art skills taught by your fellow Bison. Similar to painting with a twist . . . without the twist! Instead of just painting the Bison, you can paint with the Bison!
- 3. Chairs in the Square:** You know those lawn chairs your parents hauled around to your soccer matches? Snag one and add it to your packing list (or, if you commute, throw one in your trunk). Come prepared to “social distance” all over our beautiful campus, and be on the lookout for events in Bison Square where you can get out, breathe fresh air, and enjoy life.
- 4. New Chapels:** I have already explained that The Gathering will be virtual this fall, but I really think you will love it. It is so important in all the craziness to have something that is dependable to provide rhythm in the chaos, and the new approach will feature our very own folks and do just that. I can’t wait for you to see. Plus, the opportunity to choose a breakout chapel group to identify with each week is going to be great. We will have so many more options to choose from—including the one I will lead that I’m calling the “I-Don’t-Want-to-Go-to-Chapel” chapel (for those where that applies!). :-)

Web Resources

For more detailed information about the plans for our careful and safe return to campus in August, please visit the [Return to Campus](#) website or email questions to COVIDquestions@lipscomb.edu.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and your student!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Carroll

Assistant Vice President for Annual Giving and Alumni & Parent Engagement