



All Bisons Care Plan Intro Letter

Dear Lipscomb Community,

We are just a few short weeks away from welcoming students back to campus for the first day of classes! And, our freshman students will be on campus even earlier for their New Student Orientation and QuestWeek activities. This year will be different and in some ways it will not be different. We know because of the pandemic we will see masks, we will physically distance, and we will use more hand sanitizer than we can imagine. What will not change is that Lipscomb University is — and will remain — a place where lives are transformed. Even in unprecedented times such as a global pandemic, Lipscomb is a place that is committed to investing holistically in students so they can grow into the person God desires them to be.

The COVID-19 pandemic does not define us. We are Bisons. Just like a bison does in the coldest and darkest of winters, we are looking straight ahead as we navigate this unknown “winter” before us. We are tenacious as we take one day at a time in a world we cannot predict. We are strong as individually we do our part for the good of the herd. And we are courageous in our journey as we know that spring always comes after even the bleakest of winters. We are part of the Bison Herd, and together, we are navigating this winter season and walking boldly toward the spring that will come.

We are planning for an exceptional on-campus student experience this fall—one that will be enriching, fulfilling and life-changing as well as one for the history books. And, it will take each member of the Bison Herd — students, faculty members and staff — working together to protect the health and safety of every member of the Lipscomb community.

In my communication last week, I mentioned the **All Bisons Care** plan. While no community as large as Lipscomb’s campus can guarantee an environment free of COVID-19, the **All Bisons Care** plan is our comprehensive plan to keep our campus and our community safe by limiting the spread of COVID-19. And it will take every member of the Bison Herd doing his or her part to help minimize the risk to the Lipscomb community and to have an enriching campus experience for students this fall. **All Bisons Care** is based on the following premises:

- **Prevention:** We are doing everything we can to prevent the virus from affecting members of our community. But know that no community can guarantee a COVID-19 free environment.
- **Robust Response:** We are prepared to respond quickly, effectively and medically in the event of a COVID case on our campus.
- **Investment:** We have invested millions of dollars to enhance the resources, supplies, facilities, and equipment needed to respond to the COVID environment we currently find ourselves in.
- **Staffing:** We have proactively increased both our medical staff and student support services staff to assist students during the semester as may be needed.

- **Guidelines:** As a community that believes in the value of knowledge and expertise we have sought the best guidance from federal, state and local entities as well as higher education organizations focused on creating a safe learning community.

While following these guidelines, Lipscomb has also developed specific plans to address the unique needs of our university campus community and to do everything possible — to be a better bison — to protect those on our campus who are most vulnerable to serious consequences of COVID-19.

Because of who we are, **All Bisons Care**. Everything we are doing now and over the coming weeks and months is aimed at offering the safest experience possible to protect every member of the Bison Herd. While the pandemic can feel overwhelming at times, this plan includes both small steps and large initiatives that we are all taking together to protect ourselves, to protect others and to protect the Lipscomb community. The **All Bisons Care** plan includes the following focal points.

1. Personal Responsibility
2. Health and Safety Protocols and Practices
3. Physical Space Changes
4. Instructional Options
5. Protecting the Vulnerable
6. Continued Education
7. Future Planning

Following the guidelines and policies in the **All Bisons Care** plan as well as those outlined on the [Return to Campus](#) website will be expected of all members of the Bison Herd. It will help protect you and others if we all commit now to doing all we can to follow the guidelines, wear a mask, physically distance, wash our hands, and immediately report any symptoms to the Health Center.

Share your questions, comments and ideas with us at COVIDquestions@lipscomb.edu. For more specific questions, employees may contact the Office of Human Resources by emailing hr@lipscomb.edu or contacting **Christy Hooper**, vice president of human resources, at 615.966.6190. Students may contact the Office of Student Life by emailing studentlife@lipscomb.edu or contacting **Al Sturgeon**, vice president of student life and dean of students, at 615.966.6058.

It will take each member of the Bison Herd working together to protect the health and safety of every member of the Lipscomb community. We can — and we will — do this because **All Bisons Care!**

Blessings,
L. Randolph Lowry
President

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xZlsnrDAdGw95IOkQtKTFL6zCCbfBEeA/view>