

PARENT COVID COMMUNICATION UPDATE_Aug 4

Parents -

August is here, and we are in our final weeks of preparations as we eagerly anticipate the arrival of your student on campus! Below are a few items we want to highlight this week.

All Bisons Care

Last week President Lowry shared the **All Bisons Care** plan via email with students, parents, faculty and staff. 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. View the **All Bisons Care** [plan here](#).

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 our students, faculty, staff 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.

Lipscomb COVID-19 Dashboard

This summer we have had students, faculty and staff on campus, particularly in the health sciences areas of Pharmacy and Physician Assistant Studies programs. Students in these programs have been on campus for in-person classes, labs and exams as well as in rotations in hospital and medical settings. During these months the few instances of COVID-19 exposures have provided us the opportunity to implement the [All Bisons Care plan](#) to protect the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff. Because of the high level of personal responsibility of

both students and employees in these programs wearing face coverings, honoring physical distancing requirements, increased hand washing and following other wellness protocols, these programs have had minimal exposures that have been managed efficiently and effectively through contact tracing protocols to quickly mitigate further exposures. We applaud the leadership of these programs in following the plans and protocols and for modeling the impact on the Lipscomb community when **All Bisons Care**.

While no area is guaranteed to be COVID-free, we do believe that when **All Bisons Care** and take personal responsibility for their safety and wellness by following the general health protocols we have established, it will result in a healthier Lipscomb community for everyone as evidenced by the limited exposures this summer.

As we now move toward a full return to campus, we will be providing weekly statistics to the Lipscomb community that are available to parents to view on the [website](#), so we can all monitor and be aware of our community's status.

Weekly Dashboard Report

The data below reflects information collected by Lipscomb Health Services. Data recorded below include the number of tests conducted in the Lipscomb clinic as well as results from tests that are conducted at off-campus testing sites since March 25, 2020. Some individuals have been tested more than once. Results from tests conducted off-campus are self-reported by individuals to the clinic and the numbers below are incumbent upon cases being reported to the clinic. Lipscomb COVID-19 dashboard data is updated weekly by 10 a.m. each Monday for the previous week's data.

Cumulative Data for March 25 - July 24, 2020

- Cumulative number of COVID-19 tests administered in Lipscomb Health Center: 182
- Cumulative number of positive tests: 42*

*11 Lipscomb employees and/or students and 31 outside vendors who were working on-site in May

Beginning this week, we will report weekly data (Saturday - Friday) on the [Campus COVID Statistics](#) website. The first week's data will be for July 25-31 and is already populated on the website page.

Parent Q&A with the President and University Administrators

Last Thursday evening, Lipscomb President Randy Lowry hosted a virtual Parent Q&A with university administrators. More than 400 joined us live for this special session. For those of you who were not able to join us or want to view the session again, you may [watch it here](#). You will find this a helpful resource with information about health and wellness, student life, academics, protocols and more!

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.

Blessings on your week as you and your student make final preparations for the beginning of the fall semester later this month!

Parent Virtual Gatherings

Sincerely,

Stephanie Carroll

Assistant Vice President for Annual Giving and Alumni & Parent Engagement