

PARENT EMAIL • August 13, 2020

SUBJECT LINE: Make a personal commitment to “be smart and do your part” because All Bisons Care



If there is one thing we have come to learn over the last few months, there are many aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic that are out of our control. Earlier in the summer we hoped our national and community efforts to “flatten the curve” would continue to benefit our communities into the fall semester. However, in Tennessee and Nashville and other places around the country, the virus has not subsided as we would have hoped.

Even so, as public health experts have advised, *every* individual can play a significant role in mitigating the spread of the virus and making the communities around us safer for everyone. What each one of us *can* control is our personal commitment to proactively follow recommended health and safety protocols to stay healthy, to protect those around us and to be prepared the best we can. Lipscomb has taken these measures and committed resources, time and effort to create our [Return to Campus](#) and [All Bisons Care](#) plans, our comprehensive plans to keep our campus and our community safe by limiting the spread of COVID-19. And, with LipscombFLEX, both students and employees have multiple options for learning and working to meet their needs, including in-person, hybrid and remote.

But, the plans, protocols, and guidelines in which we have invested are only effective if they are followed. It is up to every person in our community to take personal responsibility to contribute to our successful return to in-person learning, working and living. That’s one reason the first section of the All Bisons Care plan focuses on personal responsibility.

So, how can you help create a successful semester? Here are just a few ways that every individual in the Lipscomb community can help.

1. **Follow CDC health guidelines:** wear a mask, physically distance, and wash your hands often and understand the benefits of good health measures like wearing a mask to limit COVID spread. (View information about [how to properly wear a mask](#), [benefits of wearing a mask to limit COVID virus spread and exposure](#) and [the average COVID virus infection rate](#).)
2. **Follow Lipscomb’s [All Bisons Care](#) and [Return to Campus](#) guidelines and protocols.** As we say: Be smart. Do your part.

3. **Follow local guidelines regarding wearing face masks and group gathering limits.** Currently, gatherings are limited to 25 in Nashville, with appropriate physical distancing and masks required.
4. **Be aware of local COVID data metrics and avoid visiting “hot spots.”** Review current data for [Davidson County](#).
5. **Limit unnecessary travel off campus or from home.** Use delivery services for food and supplies and virtual meetings when possible.
6. **Know the “Serious Six” activities identified by Metro Nashville Public Health Department** as common ways COVID-19 has been spreading in Nashville: small gatherings and parties, bars, essential work sites (construction, food production, healthcare), faith-based group activities, weddings and household contacts. Activities that are emerging as COVID-19 “hot spots” include pool parties and backyard BBQs. Limit or omit all in-person activities in these areas.
7. **Create your own “friend/family bubble”** that you hang out with and hold each other accountable to follow guidelines.
8. **Stay home if you are sick**, have any COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed to a positive COVID-19 case and use the [Report an Illness](#) link.
9. **Use the [LipscombREADY app](#)** daily before coming to campus to check your symptoms (and for other important resources!).
10. **Get a flu shot early**, unless you have a medical exemption.

We are asking **everyone** in the Lipscomb community — faculty, staff and students — to follow these personal responsibility guidelines. We have done our part to prepare for an in-person experience and are committed to continue to do our best to provide what is needed for this to be successful. And, we are asking and expecting you to do your part. *Frankly, your help and assistance are essential to our success to remain in-person.* For this semester, we will ask that you delay, eliminate or use virtual capabilities for many of what were your regular activities or gatherings and for you to limit your exposure where possible. For example, you can experience the fullness that Nashville has to offer at a future time when doing so does not put your or another’s personal health and safety at risk. Make an agreement with your peers that each of you will do what it takes to follow all the guidelines to create the safest environment this fall for everyone to enjoy!

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. We can — and we will — do this because **All Bisons Care!**

Blessings,
Randy Lowry
President