

Re:

Phased Return to Campus
To: Life University Community

I'd like to begin this rather lengthy message by expressing my gratitude for your patience. I know you've had many questions - as have we - in a time when there simply have been too many unknowns to provide firm answers. Once the initial two-week shutdown was implemented, subsequent public health directives and guidelines led to a much longer shutdown window, and now we are in our seventh week - nearly two months - of suspension of on-campus classes and the launch of near-100% remote instruction for the Spring 2020 Quarter. That is still hard to believe, and it's amazing to see just how successful we've been, in spite of all the challenges, difficulties and uncertainties.

Every member of the LIFE community - students, faculty and staff - have worked together to make that happen. So, I continue my message with deep gratitude for what you've accomplished (and, for anyone who is struggling and needs assistance, please email CARE@LIFE.edu).

Now, it's time for some decisions.

# PHASED RETURN TO CAMPUS

With the passage of time and our ability (albeit limited) to gauge the effects of both COVID-19 and the efforts to mitigate its impact, we now have additional information and guidance available from experience, the CDC, the White House Opening up America Again initiative, the most recent social distancing guidelines, and current executive orders

from Georgia's governor that have assisted us in the decision that Life University will utilize a phased approach in our return to on-campus instruction and operations.

PLEASE NOTE that our phased return for the Summer 2020 Quarter will affect students in some programs differently than others. Below is an outline of the details, which you can also find electronically by clicking here:



Remote instruction will continue for all CGUS and COC courses for the remainder of the Spring 2020 Quarter.

Students will not need to be on campus for classes or clinic before the end of the quarter, which is June 19. Then, Summer 2020 Quarter will begin as originally scheduled July 13, 2020 under the following phased approach:

# CHIROPRACTIC

All D.C. students should return to campus.

#### Remote instruction

 Specified lecture-only courses will be delivered remotely as they were during the Spring 2020 Quarter; those taking only remote D.C. courses are not required to return to campus.

# Hybrid instruction

- D.C. courses with specified lab components will be delivered using a hybrid approach (lecture remote; lab on campus will be delivered in split morning or afternoon/evening shifts).
  - Those labs in quarters one (1) through six (6) will be delivered in either the morning or afternoon/evenings.
  - Courses with a lab in quarters seven (7) through twelve (12) will be delivered in either the mornings or afternoon/evenings.
  - Morning and afternoon/evening shift assignment is TBD, but it will be communicated when scheduling is completed.
  - NOTE: The number of students per lab will be determined and administered using the appropriate public health and safety recommendations and hygiene protocols in place at the time the labs will be delivered.

PLEASE ALSO NOTE that the institution will continue contingency planning and development of schedule options that allow all D.C. courses to return to on-campus instruction mid-quarter, if possible and appropriate.

# Clinic Practicum

- Student involvement in patient care will proceed with adherence to CDC and White House parameters for the Opening up America Again initiative, the most up-to-date social distancing guidelines, current executive orders from Georgia's governor, and other CDC/healthcare recommendations (e.g., COVID-19 screenings, physical distancing, etc.).
- CLIN 3608 & CLIN 3609: CC-HOP patient care with limited schedules
- CLIN 4710, CLIN 4711 & CLIN 4712: C-HOP patient care with limited schedules

#### UNDERGRADUATE

Undergraduate students will not be required to return to campus for UG coursework for the Summer 2020 Quarter.

#### Remote instruction

 CGUS-only courses (those specific to the Undergraduate program) will be delivered through remote instruction as they were during the previous Spring 2020 Quarter or as an online class.

# GRADUATE

Only graduate students enrolled in classes with specified lab components will return to campus.

# Remote instruction

 CGUS-lecture only courses (those specific to the Graduate program) will be delivered remotely as they were during the previous Spring 2020 Quarter.

# Hybrid instruction

 Graduate courses with a specified lab component will be delivered using a hybrid approach (lecture remote; lab on campus where appropriate). Specific details will be provided by the course instructor.

# SUMMARY

# **SPRING 2020 QUARTER**

Undergraduate, Graduate and Doctor of Chiropractic: All programs to continue remote instruction for the remainder of the Spring 2020 Quarter.

End Date: Friday, June 19

# SUMMER 2020 QUARTER

**Undergraduate:** Remote instruction or Online courses to continue for all of Summer 2020 Quarter.

**Graduate:** Remote instruction, Online courses and specified on-campus labs.

**DCP**: Remote instruction for lecture with specified oncampus labs; student involvement in clinics will resume on a limited basis.

Start Date: Monday, July 13, 2020

### **FEE REFUNDS**

In consideration of all factors involved in the transition to remote instruction, LIFE will institute a 25% refund of the student fee based on student's program of enrollment for the Spring 2020 Quarter.

#### CARES FUNDING

In addition, the federal government has made funds available for students who are Title IV eligible. LIFE has applied for these funds, and if approved, they will be disbursed directly to students by the University based on parameters established by the federal government. Once confirmation of CARES Funding has been received, both the fee refund and CARES disbursements will be made to students. More information will follow in the coming week.

#### HOUSING

Housing will remain available to students, subject to availability, in the LVR and Commons, with all recommended and appropriate hygiene measures practiced and distancing protocols observed, per the previously specified guidelines. For current resident Undergraduate and Graduate students who are leaving and not returning until the Fall Quarter, refunds will be prorated and made available as soon as possible, provided the appropriate notice to the University has been given.

# ORIENTATION

Undergraduate: Will take place remotely.

Graduate: Will take place remotely.

Chiropractic: Still to be determined, based on Summer 2020

Quarter class size.

# STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

# On campus support for D.C. students.

- Academic support will be provided both on campus and via remote instruction.
- Disability services will be provided both on campus and via remote instruction.

We will continue to provide remote tutoring, skillshops, etc. for Graduate and Undergraduate students.

#### **CAMPUS WIDE**

Enhanced cleaning/disinfecting protocols will be in place.

- Normal table management cleaning/disinfecting protocols will be implemented in each lab (by students).
- Major cleaning/disinfecting protocols will be administered at mid-day between course shifts (custodial staff).
- Major cleaning/disinfecting protocols will be administered at end of each day (custodial staff).

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be made available as recommended by previously specified guidelines and requirements.

### **UNIVERSITY WIDE**

Supervisors are determining which employees will need to return to campus and which ones can continue to work remotely, either fully or partially, and will make recommendations in alignment with employee needs and departmental on-campus needs.

### **TOWN HALLS**

Along with the appropriate co-hosts for each constituency, we will be organizing a number of virtual Town Hall meetings so that you can ask questions and provide feedback. Please be on the lookout in your Life University inbox for an email inviting you to participate in one or more of the Town Hall meetings.

# **MILESTONES**

Now come the most difficult decisions with regard to our students' well-deserved milestones in their educational experience. Based on current guidelines on large gatherings, physical distancing and even considering likely future changes, we will not be able to accommodate in-person/onsite iterations of Clinic Gateway, Convocation, and Graduation ceremonies. These were truly the most heart-wrenching decisions that had to be made. Please know that we have already begun planning and preparation to provide you with a virtual celebration of your accomplishments and attainments. As with our Winter 2020 graduates, we will prepare all the materials that you would have received at these ceremonies and have them delivered to you. You will receive additional details and have the opportunity to ask questions and provide input regarding your virtual ceremony. In addition, Spring 2020 graduates will always be welcome to participate, with special recognition, in any future commencement that best serves their schedules.

# IN CLOSING

To those who understandably feel anxious about a return to on-campus instruction, and especially to those who would criticize our plan as premature, please let me assure you that we have not made this decision lightly. Our flagship chiropractic program and many of our other health sciences programs require face-to-face, hands-on instruction in order for students to acquire the clinical and applied competencies that are essential to the practice of their professions. It is imperative that these students, in order to protect their educational attainment and objectives, be able to receive the education to which they are entitled as future professionals.

I acknowledge upfront that there are still many questions that remain unanswerable, and just as we did with our campus closing and rapid implementation of remote instruction, I know that we will also work together to make our return to campus work. Some things may still change, but we know it's important to get as many things settled as we can. To wait any longer would add to what is already an exceedingly stressful time for so many.

Please continue to grant us the grace to do our best, and give yourself that same grace, as we all work together to create the best learning and workplace landscape possible for the Summer 2020 Quarter.

In gratitude to each of you for your help and persistence in a time when it is needed most.

Sincerely,

Rob Scott, D.C., Ph.D.

President, Life University