



## An Update on Plans for LSUS Fall Reopening

Dear Students,

I hope this finds you well. We've missed seeing you and look forward to welcoming you to campus this fall. As we draw closer to the beginning of the semester, I want to update you on our fall planning, our commitments to your health and wellbeing and the shared responsibility we have in adapting to the guidelines being put into place.

As there are complex decisions involved in preparing our campus for reopening during a pandemic, we have been carefully planning and preparing for reopening throughout the summer. The safety of the campus community has been central to this process. Our planning is a collaborative effort of many on campus and coordinated by a newly established Pandemic Action Team. In collaboration with Ochsner Health System, the PAT has considered Governor John Bel Edwards' recommendations, public health directives, and the unique needs at LSUS in the plan's development. As there is ongoing risk, our plan for reopening in the fall must remain flexible and your patience with this process is appreciated.

It is important that we understand the ongoing risks of Covid-19 and do our part as a community to help effectively manage its spread by closely adhering to public health guidelines, especially physical distancing, the wearing of face coverings, and staying home if symptomatic. Caring for one another, attending to needs of individual community members, and reducing the disparate impact of the virus on underserved communities is a shared responsibility.

By necessity, this plan is still evolving, but I wanted to share these highlights with you:

### Health and Safety Practices

- Face coverings – All students, faculty, staff, and visitors to campus will be required to wear face coverings inside all buildings (including hallways, stairwells, classrooms, restrooms, and visiting others' offices) and when unable to maintain physical distance in other areas.
- Physical distancing – Physical distancing practices will be in place across campus. Campus spaces, including classrooms and common areas, are being reconfigured to implement capacity limits and require at least 6 feet of distance between individuals.
- Hand washing – Hand washing will be encouraged. We have also placed hand sanitizing stations across campus.
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting – Campus protocols for cleaning and disinfecting have been enhanced, especially areas of high touch surfaces and common spaces.
- Wellness checks – A registered nurse will offer wellness checks in the University Center. Anyone with questions can have their temperature taken or have their symptoms evaluated.

- Signage – Campus-wide signage is being installed to inform the community of guidelines as they enter the campus, buildings, and individual spaces.

### Academic Practices

- Fall semester – The [academic calendar](#) for the fall semester remains the same.
- Classroom configurations – Classroom (and common space) capacities are being reduced to comply with physical distancing recommendations. Seating will be spaced apart. Plexiglass partitions may be in place at podiums.
- Course delivery – Some classes will be held in person. Others will be delivered remotely. Still others will be a combination of both. These decisions are still being made and the current meeting times/rooms on the class schedule may change.
- Technology – Classrooms are being equipped with new technology to enable flexible course delivery.

### Student Life Practices

- Events – Students can anticipate a combination of virtual and in-person events. Student Life events will be reshaped to conform to recommendations of physical distancing and capacity limits.
- Food pantry – The Food Pantry will reopen with new procedures for shopping. These procedures follow recommended physical distancing protocols.
- Recreational Sports- The office of Recreational Sports will reopen the student weight room and dance studio in the HPE. Fitness programming will continue virtually. Plans are developing on which Intramural Sports can safely continue.
- Student Success Center – The Student Success Center will reopen with the campus. Career counseling, tutoring, coaching, and supplemental instruction will continue in a combination of virtual and face to face activities.

Please keep in mind that portions of our plan may change as the virus continues to evolve. I commit to keeping you updated as we move through this challenging time, and I appreciate your understanding and patience as we prepare for the fall semester.

Stay safe.

**Paula Atkins, Ed.D.**