

From: Official ESU Email

Sent: Friday, January 8, 2021

Subject: Message to the campus community from Interim President Kenneth Long - January 8, 2021

Warriors,

Happy New Year! Like you, I am happy to put 2020 behind us and begin this year with hope and movement toward a college experience that will bring more of us together, safely, for academic and life experiences that are best lived in person. This new year and new semester sheds light on availability of a COVID-19 vaccine for one and all, and as we wait our turn I want to remind everyone that the health and safety of our campus community, our families and our community-at-large continue to remain the top priority for ESU.

The Spring 2021 semester begins on Tuesday, January 19 with a few hundred students living in ESU's residence halls and more than 100 classes being taught face-to-face. These are significant increases over the Fall 2020 semester and we intend to continue growing these numbers to a full return to campus in Fall 2021, as a result of the introduction of weekly on-campus coronavirus testing, daily symptom monitoring and other new mitigation and preventative measures.

While we are optimistic about 2021, we must proceed with caution as the COVID-19 pandemic remains a powerful and threatening enemy. We must all continue to do our part, following the critical guidelines set by the CDC and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PDOH): wear a mask, maintain a social distance of six feet whenever possible, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer regularly, and clean all high-touch areas that you come in contact with on a regular basis. To help us in these endeavors, ESU's facilities management team continues to frequently sanitize common areas of campus and will increase their efforts as additional students, faculty and staff return to campus.

Additionally, you've received an invitation to participate in ESU's HealthCheck, a screening software that is recommended for use by members of our campus community to help you track your health, follow the results and keep you safe during these unprecedented times of COVID-19. An e-mail was sent to you on Monday, January 4, outlining the detailed instructions on how to access and use ESU HealthCheck daily. By using the COVID-19 health screener daily and being responsible, you are doing your part to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. If you have not received this information, please contact Dr. Amy Freeman at afreeman11@esu.edu or 570-422-3073 to have the information sent to you.

Mandatory weekly testing will also take place for those who live on campus or visit campus facilities. Additional information about this testing process will be shared with you shortly. Please check your campus e-mail routinely for updates.

We must all work together, follow the national and state guidelines and restrictions related to stopping the spread of COVID-19, especially wearing a mask and social distancing, in order to reach our goal of returning to a somewhat normal campus operation in Fall 2021. I look forward to seeing many of you on campus in just a few days. Until then, please stay safe, practice responsible measures and remain Warrior Strong.

Kenneth Long
Interim President