

**From:** Washington, Donna  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:59 AM  
**To:** Washington, Donna  
**Subject:** Important Campus Updates



Dear Braves Nation,

We are looking forward to having students, faculty and staff back on campus as we all plan for the fall semester. As the coronavirus pandemic creates some challenges, we optimistically continue to prepare the campus, in anticipation of your return. As you might imagine we are facing a situation that is somewhat out of our control, but as we move into the coming semester we are encouraged by the excitement students have expressed about their arrival to campus and the undeniable sense of community at Ottawa University. We are working to employ creative ways to maintain a vibrant campus community, while also implementing a number of safeguards to promote health and safety for the Braves Nation and surrounding community.

Ottawa University strongly believes in the educational value and personal growth provided through the on-campus experience, and therefore we will offer programming, athletic competition and in-person classes in the safest environment we can provide. A designated University task force, in consultation with the Franklin County Health Department, and health professionals, has been working throughout the summer to develop a safety plan following the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. While that extensive plan is in the final stages of development and approval, here is a quick summary of some things to expect in the fall:

#### **Face Masks/Coverings**

- Following advice from medical professionals, federal guidelines and the State of Kansas mandate to wear face masks/coverings. Ottawa University requires all students, faculty and staff to wear face masks/coverings at all times when they are in public areas or in the presence of other individuals while on campus, except when in their University-sponsored housing room, office, in a private vehicle, or as indicated by public health officials and/or established base medical protocol.
- Ottawa University is providing at least one reusable cloth mask for each student. These complimentary masks will be made available when students arrive on campus for matriculation and move-in.

#### **Physical Distancing**

- An effort will be made to decrease density and promote physical distancing in all areas, including classrooms, the Hetrick Bistro, lounges and other public spaces.
- Patterns have been developed to promote one-way traffic flow in the Hetrick Bistro.

- As necessary, there will be a flexible classroom model for those students meeting pre-approved criteria.
- All self-service stations within the Hetrick Bistro have been removed and dining spaces modified.

### Arrival on Campus

- Students are being asked to bring the following coronavirus-related supplies for their use:
  - Sanitizing wipes / cleaning supplies for regularly cleaning and disinfecting your residence hall room and belongings
  - Hand sanitizer to carry with you when washing your hands with soap and water is not an option
  - Face masks / coverings for your personal use, beyond the complimentary mask provided.
  - Digital thermometer
  - **RECOMMENDATION:** Make purchases now before other students returning to colleges across the country are looking for the same things!
- Students should check and continue to monitor the [Kansas Department of Health and Environment](#) (KDHE) travel-related quarantine guidelines. If you are from one of the states identified, or have traveled internationally, or been on a cruise ship or river cruise, you are required to complete a 14-day quarantine before being allowed to move freely about campus. There may be an opportunity to complete the quarantine on campus or with a friend or relative who lives in the state. The guidelines are continuously updated, so it is imperative to continue to regularly monitor them between now and your return.
  - If you reside in, or have recently visited, one of the areas designated by the KDHE for quarantine and have not been in contact with us previously, please reach out to us at your earliest convenience, so that we can work with you on your arrival to campus.

### Focus on Hygiene

- Policies and procedures are being adapted to allow for increased daily cleaning, regular sanitizing of common areas, and proper personal hygiene.
- Sanitation stations have been installed in all classrooms.
- Disinfectant wipes were acquired for students to wipe down desks and chairs prior to each class period.

### Focus on Student Health

- The University is offering tele-health and tele-therapy services for students in safe spaces on campus. More details will be provided upon arrival.
- The [Student Health Services Center](#) has added additional staff to better serve students.
- Self-monitor stations and signage will be located around campus to allow students to do self-screening and provide next steps.

We encourage you to maintain good health practices during the days ahead of your transition to campus. Be familiar with the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and steps you can take in your own community to access a healthcare provider and/or testing. Some helpful resources may include:

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [Kansas Department of Health and Environment \(KDHE\)](#)
- [Franklin County \(Kansas\) Health Department \(FRHD\)](#)

All students, faculty, staff and visitors will engage in a daily health screening.

We are proceeding with caution and beginning conservatively, as health and welfare are our top priority with the safety of both the OU and Ottawa community. We will continually assess our practices and procedures, and if we can safely relax some of these guidelines, we will do so. We thank everyone for their personal commitment to this plan in serving the best interests of the broader campus community.

Please be sure to regularly check for updates on the website at [www.ottawa.edu/Coronavirus](http://www.ottawa.edu/Coronavirus). In addition, we will be hosting a Facebook Live panel question and answer session on Tuesday, July 14 at 2:30 p.m. CST.

The strength of our community will get us through this together!



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800-755-5200 • 785-242-5200

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