

To: Montgomery College Community
From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President
Subject: MC's Plans for Fall
Date: July 29, 2020

Good morning. The College has spent much of the last four months planning meticulously for a full return to face-to-face teaching, learning, and working, if conditions were deemed safe. While local infection rates have improved, concerns about the spread of COVID-19 in our area remain. Montgomery County does not appear to have reached the place where a full return to in-person operations at the College are warranted. Therefore, **the large majority of the College will continue to operate remotely for the fall semester.**

In order to best serve students, we are working to host a small number of in-person learning experiences for a limited number of students, but this will be the **exception rather than the rule**. The small number of students in [these classes](#)—all health sciences, lab classes, and a couple of workforce development areas—means that social distancing is possible in ways we could not sustain were all of our students and employees to return at once. Health protocols such as masks, social distancing, frequent cleaning, and staggered student attendance are among many strategies the College will be implementing for these targeted in-person experiences.

As you know the College's Human Resources and Strategic Talent Management (HRSTM) division has been working directly with employees and their supervisors to plan for the possibility of extending remote operations. Employees with **school-aged children**, those with **health vulnerabilities** (or family members with such vulnerabilities), and those with **eldercare responsibilities**, have all been considered. As we did in the spring, the College will ask supervisors to be accommodating of the circumstances in which employees find themselves, as we all work to accomplish our mission during this continuing health emergency.

You will be receiving **more guidance** from HRSTM about policies and procedures for the fall, from Academic Affairs about courses with proposed in-person learning, and from Student Affairs about the dynamics of remote support for students. In the meantime, I encourage you to communicate with your supervisor, stay in touch with colleagues and friends, and join the today's Conversation with Leadership at 1 p.m. for the latest updates.

The health and safety of our community must be **our highest priority**. As we demonstrated in the spring, it is possible to reduce the spread of the virus while continuing to propel students to academic and personal success. In fact, we accomplished some remarkable feats this past semester. I am very proud of our College community and believe **we will rise to the challenge** of this next chapter. Thank you for your continued commitment to our mission and to each other.