

Dear families,

The beginning of the new academic year is here, and, after months of preparation, our plans are in place. Some of the information that I'm going to share will be familiar; some will be new. However, all of it is important!

The first new item is our Minot State University Beavers Restart Plan. You can find all the information you need at [MinotStateU.edu/covid](https://www.minotstateu.edu/covid). While there, learn about fall classes, our masks/face covering guidelines, MSU Life, and much more. Our [Restart Guidelines](#) lays out the action steps the University will take depending upon the identified COVID-19 level in our state, community, and campus. Please take the time to better acquaint yourselves with our strategies in several "what if" scenarios.

Earlier this year, Minot State University decided to close one of our residence halls, Dakota Hall, due to decreased demand. Considering the current COVID-19 pandemic, we have dedicated the entire facility to housing students who need to be quarantined or isolated. We have employed professional staff to serve as a Student Concierge overseeing care for students on our campus. This person is dedicated to ensuring that students have their basic needs met such as food, water, academics, technology, and emotional support. I will continue to update you using our monthly newsletter or special editions like this for time sensitive announcements. Our [COVID-19 website](#) is the best place to look for updated information.

What to expect if your student tests positive for COVID-19 or is identified as a close contact? The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) will contact your student and the University if they test positive. The student will be placed in isolation for 14 days. A contact tracer from the NDDoH will interview your student to monitor their health and to identify all others with whom they were in contact. After the investigation, the NDDoH will determine close contacts and communicate directly with these people and place them in a 14-day quarantine. Students may return home for their isolation or quarantine. Dakota Hall will be used to house our on-campus students. The University will work with all students to make sure that their educational needs are met remotely.



Hand sanitizer stations, plexiglass barriers, and floor decals have been installed throughout campus.

Free COVID-19 testing is available in the Minot State Dome from 9 A.M. to noon on August 21, 24, and 25. Free testing is also available four days a week locally at the First District Health Unit, and more information can be found [online](#). Serial COVID-19 testing events are in the planning stages, and we will provide ongoing testing opportunities on campus throughout the school year.

Mandatory masking on campus while indoors was implemented on Monday, Aug. 17. Last Friday, I asked students to follow this policy not because we told them to do so, but because masking, distancing, and proper hygiene may be our pathway to maintaining an in-person school year. We appreciate your support of this new policy.



Move-in Day begins this Friday, Aug. 21 and extends through the weekend. The dining plan also begins at 7 A.M. on Aug. 21. I plan to be on campus all weekend; please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to meet. As always, I can be reached at kevin.harmon@MinotStateU.edu.

Respectfully,



Kevin Harmon, Vice President for Student Affairs