

August 18, 2020

As part of South University's commitment to keep you informed about our COVID-19 response and related changes for students, staff, and faculty, I am providing an update about the status of the South University Return to Campus Plan.

On June 1, 2020, South University implemented the Phase One Return to Campus Plan. This first phase began by identifying lab courses that required limited on-campus instruction using extensive safety protocols for involved faculty and students.

We announced initial preparations for the Phase Two Return to Campus Plan for July 7, 2020. However, due to increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases in several campus locations, we delayed the date for the initiation of the Phase Two Return to Campus.

South University has continued to operate under our Phase One of the Return to Campus Plan using the SouthVR virtual modality along with required experiential laboratory sessions limited to fifteen (15) people with adequate space for physical distancing to be maintained. Those campus courses are going very well, thanks to the diligence of students, faculty and staff who are following safety protocols.

Beginning September 14, 2020, first year Pharmacy students will have the option for on-campus or virtual instruction. For the fall quarter beginning in October, selected courses in other programs, identified by campuses and colleges, will also give students on-campus or virtual course options. Additional on-campus staff will be needed to support additional on-campus activity and courses.

This week South University will send you, and publish on its website, comprehensive on-campus *Guidelines* for students, faculty and staff. To support new and continuing students on campuses, Phase Two will begin **September 8, 2020**. Precautions to facilitate the return to campus include a mandatory daily "symptom check", social distancing, required face covering, and enhanced cleaning protocols, along with others outlined in the *Guidelines*.

Those employees returning to campus in Phase Two will include all campus-based staff. Also returning will be faculty teaching campus-based courses this fall, program directors, department chairs and college assistant/associate deans. Those with underlying health conditions, or living with or caring for someone with underlying health conditions, or those who have certain childcare challenges should follow the Human Resource policies detailed in the *Guidelines*. Attached is the COVID-19 Request Form.

Due to the open office layout, South University Online staff located at the Pittsburgh facility will continue working remotely to support online students.

University leadership and the COVID-19 Task Force continue to monitor the status of each campus location, in addition to federal, state and local COVID-19 guidelines. South University is committed to keeping our community safe and maintaining effective communication throughout the pandemic.

I appreciate your ongoing patience and understanding as we each pledge to maintain the health of everyone within our community.

Thank you,

Steve