The primary charge of the FFIT is developing procedures, timelines and action plans, building on the reports and recommendations from the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Fall 2020 Decisions Task Force. Interim Chancellor Foster launched this group to ensure readiness of safe on-campus operations for fall semester and beyond.

Over the next several weeks, FFIT will provide weekly status updates on the work underway to complete the university’s preparations for the 2020-21 academic year.

Chancellor Chat
In this week’s Chancellor Chat Connie Foster visits with Alan Symicek, executive director of Facility Management about key changes on campus that have been necessary in order to create safe environments for students, instructors and employees returning for the upcoming fall semester.

Town Hall
An all-employee town hall is planned for Wednesday, July 29, from 1:15-2:30 p.m. to engage the campus community in a conversation about the university’s plans for a safe return to campus this fall. Find the link to the town hall here. Panelists will include Interim Chancellor Connie Foster, Provost David Travis, Associate Provost Wes Chapin, Falcons Forward Implementation Team (FFIT) Leader Jason Winget and Pierce County Public Health Director AZ Snyder.

FFIT Updates
Decisions and plans for implementing key fall readiness efforts:

- Students who are unable to wear a face covering due to a medical/disability-related reason, can learn more about how to request a reasonable accommodation on the Ability Services webpage. Employees requesting a reasonable accommodation, should contact Human Resources and complete the Reasonable Accommodation Request Form located here. Faculty and staff considered to be at high risk for serious complications of illness, including COVID-19, should consult with their supervisor to develop an appropriate work plan.

- Hand sanitation stations will be placed in all buildings across campus.
In Progress

- The process for students in quarantine or isolation is being developed and will focus on the support and services that these students will need.

- Facilities Management is evaluating the possibility of increasing the percentage of outside air that is circulated in campus buildings.

Academic Updates

- Instructors will receive a resource guide from Student Conduct and Community Standards before classes start to assist them in working with students regarding the wearing of face coverings in class. The resource will include guidance on messaging and managing situations where students do not cooperate with the face covering requirement. Questions related to student behavior can be directed to Thomas Pedersen. For more information about the face covering requirement, you can download UWRF’s Return to Campus COVID-19 Policy here.

- Due to concerns for the health and safety of students in physical settings, as well as their level of access to online (distance) delivery of course materials, instructors have been asked to relax any policies in which strict attendance is used as part of grading policies. Faculty Senate has been asked to consider other flexibilities.

- FFIT is currently looking into the possibility of using specially designed face shields being produced at UW-Madison [Badger Shields] with the option of using microphones for instructors.

Student Updates

- The university will work with public health regarding guidelines for in-person student programming and events for the 2020-21 academic year. Many virtual experiences will be offered to promote student engagement, including regularly scheduled activities that encourage student involvement and support a sense of community.

Questions or comments for the FFIT should be directed to covid19@uwrf.edu