Dear UWRF Students,

In about two weeks you will begin fall semester at UW-River Falls and those of you living on campus will begin to arrive already next week. These would be exciting milestones in any year, but this year they are particularly significant in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please know that we are truly looking forward to having you with us and that we are taking many precautions to help ensure everyone’s safety.

In addition to the numerous precautions and safety measures we are putting in place on campus, health and safety during a global pandemic remain a personal responsibility, as well as a social one. That is why we have developed the attached statement of commitment. We are asking that every member of our campus community read this prior to arriving on campus. The document outlines the behaviors each of us needs to agree to, if we want to achieve our goal of remaining active on campus throughout the fall. This document also references a short (15-minute) COVID-19 educational course in Canvas that we ask all UWRF students take before starting classes. Even if you will be living off campus and only taking online classes this semester, this guidance includes important ways for you to contribute to the health and safety of your family and community.

For those who will be joining us on campus, as you prepare for your semester at UW-River Falls, I would like to remind you of some specific key actions you can take to help keep yourselves and our community safe:

- We have recommended that every student practice a “home-quarantine” for two weeks prior to arriving, to help reduce the risk of someone bringing the virus with them to campus. Specifically, this means that you should be limiting exposure to anyone outside of your immediate household as much as possible. Take time to review the latest guidance regarding self-quarantine from the CDC.

- If you are interacting with others outside of your household, please be sure you follow the main safety guidance: wear a face covering, watch your physical distance, and wash or sanitize your hands frequently.

- If possible, don’t travel – save that “last trip of the summer” for next year. If you must travel, including to arrive on campus, please read the latest CDC guidance. If you are traveling here via airplane, both from within the US and from international locations, please email vanessa.luther@uwrf.edu to learn more about how the CDC guidance applies to you and what actions are recommended.
If you are not feeling well and are worried about coming to campus, especially if you are exhibiting COVID-19 related symptoms, please contact your doctor. Residence Life will help reschedule your move-in and your adviser should be able to help you if you are ill at the start of classes.

In closing, a few final reminders:

- Please note: we are providing each student with one face covering – but bring more with you. Face coverings are required at UWRF and should be washed every day. Bring at least 6 so you know you will have one for every day of the week!
- New students: if you haven’t done so yet, be sure you submit your photo for your ID card.
- Students taking only online classes: be sure to request your textbooks so they can be mailed to you in time.

The health, safety and well-being of our students remain paramount in our fight against COVID-19. Being successful takes a team effort and a personal awareness that the choices of one individual can have a great impact on many others. It all comes down to living responsibly on campus, respecting the public health authorities who are working with us and following recommended guidance for engaging safely in the community. If you have any questions related to your preparation for arrival to campus, please email covid19@uwrf.edu.

Sincerely,

Connie

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