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 Connie 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 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 talks with AZ Snyder, Director of Pierce County Public Health regarding COVID-19 testing for UWRF students and how it will be done on our campus.

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

- On-campus testing for students exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms began this week as well as randomized testing. Daily health screening text messages are being sent to students. Testing is provided by Weber Health Logistics (WHL) daily, 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., by appointment only in Hagestad Hall, south second floor.

- In addition to COVID-19 testing, students who are simply not feeling well have access to medical services through Vibrant Health Family Clinic in River Falls. Office visits are covered by Student Health and Counseling.

- Employees interested in being tested are encouraged to contact their health care provider. Find more information for employees here.

- A webpage clarifying key protocols and processes for testing, tracing, isolation and quarantine has been created for use by students and employees. The Get Tested site provides the latest guidance from Pierce County Public Health and the CDC as well as our testing partner, WHL. A supplemental flier for use in departments across campus will be available as well. (See attached.)
• With testing underway and cases being managed by the contact tracing team, faculty should anticipate hearing from students who are practicing limited contact or have been placed in isolation or quarantine. Students who are not able to attend class are encouraged to inform their instructors; however, they are not required to provide details. Please be prepared to provide reasonable, short-term accommodations allowing them to continue in your class.

• University Dining is only able to offer contactless catering at this time. Visit riverfalls.catertrax.com or dineoncampus.com/riverfalls and click the Catering link to view the Contactless Catering Menu and place an order. Customers can pick-up their prepackaged items or have them delivered. If selecting the delivery option, please note the catering staff is unable to distribute, hand-out, or set-up any food or beverages. Alcohol service is also not available at this time. If you have questions, please email catering@uwrf.edu.

In Progress

• UWRF is in the process of developing a dashboard to track metrics specific to COVID-19 testing and outcomes. The university’s dashboard will include metrics that UW System is monitoring across all campuses. UWRF plans to go live with its dashboard next week.

• Our initial contact tracing team launched this week with its first cases. As a partnership with the Pierce County Health Department, the pioneer team of UWRF tracers have worked diligently over the summer to become trained and develop new joint agency procedures needed for this effort. While the team is doing an excellent job and currently has extra capacity, it is time to prepare for fall semester with additional relief team members. This opportunity is available to current employees (student employees excluded) who are able to commit 20 hours of their current position to this role and with supervisor approval. No change in pay rate will occur. If you are interested in this position, please email contact.tracing@uwrf.edu. Requirements include flexible hours, including evenings and weekends, proficient computer skills including with Excel, and a compassionate demeanor on the phone with difficult situations. Training in public health processes will be provided and all work is done remotely with no physical contact with patients. This position is paid for by federal grants and other central funding, no departmental funds are required for this opportunity.

• Use of the Melvin Wall Amphitheatre and KFA outdoor classroom spaces will require appropriate physical distancing. Distancing will be identified by x’s spray-painted on the ground. Sandwich board signs will indicate use of the space.

• The spring semester class schedule is being reconfigured based on the assumption that the COVID-19 environment in January will be similar to August 2020. Chairs are working with their departments, dean’s offices, and the Registrar’s Office to assign modes for spring that provide an array of fully face-to-face, hybrid, and online courses. Expectations include scheduling more courses across the entire day (e.g. at 8:00 a.m. and later in the afternoon/evening) to help maximize use of the larger teaching spaces that are available. The goal is to complete this work in September to prepare for advising in October and student registration for spring term, which begins in early November.

• In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19, outdoor events are restricted to groups of 50 or fewer and indoor groups must be kept to 10 or fewer. Additionally, groups from outside
the UWRF community will not be allowed on campus without an exception. Refer to section 5.4 in the COVID-19 Reference Guide.

- Building hours during the academic year are being reviewed. Updates will be reflected on the University Police webpage.

- UWRF employees are encouraged to continue limiting exposure to those outside of your immediate household prior to returning to campus. This will help avoid bringing the virus to campus.

Resources

- The COVID-19 Reference Guide is available on the Falcons Forward webpage. This week’s updates to the guide include:
  - current guidance for group gatherings
  - use of Badger Shields
  - attendance and seating charts

- Guidelines specific to managing potential issues related to wearing face coverings in the classroom has been created for UWRF instructors. Guidance in this document applies to all places and spaces on campus. The guidance document is available on the Falcons Forward webpage under Faculty and Staff.

- A Community of Care Commitment regarding the expectations and accountability of students and employees was introduced this week. 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.

- QR codes are being posted in many spaces on campus. Your use of these codes will generate a diary to assist in contact tracing interviews. Learn more about the Centralized Attendance Tracking System (CATS) here.

- Academic Excellence and Student Success has compiled a comprehensive resource outlining all support services available to students during fall semester both in person or online. The AESS newsletter can be found here.

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