

Aug. 8, 2020

Dear Students,

I hope this note finds you healthy and ready to begin the fall semester in just a little more than a week. We are looking forward to it!

As you know, the College and the University are making every effort to ensure a safe campus for the fall 2020 semester. To this end, the University has shared a [decision framework](#) with the New York State Department of Health detailing our response if individuals test COVID-19 positive while on campus.

A portion of that document is summarized below. While we hope none of these scenarios materialize, I want you to be informed of the University's plans for addressing an outbreak of COVID-19 cases on campus, should one occur.

### **Response to Cases on Campus**

**Level 1:** If a small number of individuals test positive, and contact tracing suggests that exposures are confined to 10 or fewer people, then epidemiology and contact tracing suggests that the situation can be contained, isolated, and remediated. Affected areas will be decontaminated, University medical staff will monitor for possible escalation, and all other campus operations will remain unaffected.

**Level 2:** If the number of infected or exposed people is estimated at between 10 and 100 people, and there remains high confidence in the ability to contain, isolate, and remediate the flare-up, then precise curtailment of operations in specific areas (e.g., Dineen Hall) may be required. In addition to decontamination, these areas or programs will remain curtailed for a period of time to prevent ongoing exposures.

**Level 3:** If small outbreak occurs in a College or degree program (e.g., the College of Law) and the number of potential exposures is greater than 100 and contact tracing and containment become difficult, then curtailment of operations in that College or program may be required. Select programs will move into an online-only environment with non-resident students staying off campus, resident students staying in their rooms, and non-essential affected employees working from home.

**Level 4:** If a significant outbreak in excess of approximately 100 infections has occurred, and there is low confidence in the ability to contain the outbreak campus-wide, then the whole campus will come to a full "pause". All programs move to online alternatives, campus access will be restricted, and non-resident students and non-essential employees will work from home and stay away from campus.

**Level 5:** If ongoing campus or community transmission is occurring at a significant rate and there is no realistic strategy to contain or control the situation, the University will shut down on-campus operations completely. Those with the means to travel within 8-10 hours of Syracuse will be asked to leave within 24 hours. Those who need to arrange travel to other areas of the United States will be asked to leave within 48 hours. Those students who are able to arrange international travel are asked to leave within 72 hours. If the scenario is more extreme, students may be asked to evacuate campus immediately with only those

items they can carry with them.

### **Our Commitment to Each Other: Stay Safe Pledge**

As the scenarios above illustrate, the University is taking very seriously the need to be vigilant in protecting ourselves and each other from the pandemic. Keeping each other safe, healthy, and well requires each of you to abide by all health and safety directives from federal, state, local, and University officials through the Fall 2020 semester... *without cutting corners!*

Please review the [Stay Safe Pledge](#) and commit to doing your part to prevent the spread of COVID-19. **By choosing to be on campus, you are automatically accountable for upholding the pledge.**

### **Faculty and Staff Presence in Dineen Hall**

As you know, some of our faculty members plan to teach in person this fall while others will not be on campus and will teach online only. Please check this [Fall Schedule](#) to confirm your professors' plans and consult with them on the best way to schedule appointments.

Similarly, many of our staff members will not work from Dineen Hall this fall. Nonetheless, whether in student affairs, admissions and financial aid, career services, the library, advancement and external affairs, or my office, the entire College of Law team will be available to help and support you no matter their physical location.

All meetings with faculty and staff will be by appointment only, so please plan on reaching out by [phone or email](#) as you need to schedule appointments. If you have any questions concerning any College of Law office, please contact the Office of Student Affairs.

Additional information will follow. Please continue to visit our [Law Preparedness Page](#), including our [Checklist for the Start of the Fall Semester](#) for daily updates.

Thank you for your patience thus far, and thank you in advance for your care, kindness, vigilance, and understanding in the months ahead. I look forward to an extraordinary semester with you.

Best regards,

**Craig M. Boise**

Dean and Professor | College of Law