WELCOME BACK KNIGHTS!

Fall 2022 Campus COVID-19 Update and Mitigation Plan

KCU Knights,

The past couple of years have seen us making the best decisions possible with the best information we have available while navigating the COVID pandemic. We have trusted in God for protection and wisdom in making decisions that affect our campus. The fight against Covid19 is now more effective with widespread vaccine availability, boosters, various medical treatments and natural immunity. We will continue to stay updated on CDC and Carter County Health Department recommendations. We will continue past mitigation efforts that have proven to work such as increased cleaning, increased ventilation measures and isolation and quarantine protocols. With uncertainty of future variants, we want to take the following precautions to keep our campus as safe as possible:

Get vaccinated and boosted. This remains the best protection against contracting the virus or experiencing severe symptoms. KCU does not mandate the Covid vaccine, however, we encourage everyone to stay up to date. You can get vaccinated at any local CVS, Walgreens or Health Department. We will continue to sponsor campus vaccination clinics throughout the semester. **Our first one is August 8 11:30-1:30 in the gymnasium.** Please provide any updated Covid-19 vaccination records to the campus nurse.

While KCU is not mandating masking or social distancing, please continue to practice actions critical to reducing COVID-19 spread: social distancing when possible, wearing a face mask at appropriate times, washing your hands often, avoiding large indtoor crowds and staying away from others if you are sick.

Bring test kits with you to campus (or have them delivered to your campus mailbox). Free test kits are available online. **https://www.covid.gov/tests** Many insurance companies are also covering up to 8 home test kits per person per month. Contact your insurance company for details. The student health services will continue to stock a limited number of kits to use when necessary.

Bring a couple boxes of disposable masks and extra hand sanitizer to keep in your room. Disposable masks (medical type) have been proven to be more effective than cloth masks against COVID-19. Be prepared! There is currently no mask mandate on campus, however each individual professor has the final say over mask requirements in their personal offices and classrooms. It is a good practice to keep a mask with you.

FOR FALL CHECK IN:

We ask our fellow KCU knights to be responsible and honest by taking a Covid test before returning to campus. Be considerate and think of the well-being of the campus. If your test is positive, contact the campus nurse, Tonia Tussey, RN by email for further instructions. **nurse@kcu.edu.** If your test is negative, no further action is necessary. Also, if you have not already provided vaccination documentation, you may turn in a copy at check in to be added to our records.

If at any time during the semester you experience symptoms of COVID-19, have medical concerns, or receive positive test results, do not hesitate in contacting the campus nurse! We have learned that a rapid response will help control the spread!

KCU has a limited amount of space to use for isolation and quarantine areas. If you contract COVID-19 this semester, if possible, we ask you to return home for the duration of your isolation. Make contingency plans now with your family in preparation. We will continue to accommodate those that are unable to leave campus. We will continue virtual learning and meal delivery as appropriate. Our Campus nurse will coordinate the details with you.

As we all know, circumstances regarding COVID-19 can change at any time. If circumstances warrant and depending on community levels and severity we may need to return to adjust these guidelines. If this were to happen, campus announcements will take place. **Check your email daily.**

Kentucky Christian University