

Dear LSC Community:

As we see the COVID-19 numbers of cases and hospitalizations rise in our region, I want to reassure the entire community that we are carefully monitoring the situation locally as well as with our colleagues at MDH and the Minnesota State system offices.

Let me give you an update on the work many dedicated people are doing here at LSC and across the state to keep us safe, clean, healthy, protected, and working well within the safe practices guidelines.

- As of today, we are continuing fall semester and are still following our [plan](#) with limited face to face activities and carefully spaced, physically – distanced classrooms and labs.
- Faculty are working with Deans and the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs to shift more course elements to distance, synchronous or asynchronous environments where appropriate.
- Face to face labs and classrooms are being re-examined to assess whether any additional mitigation practices or procedures might be applied.
- And though we have already made major adjustments in staffing our campus and its three locations, I have charged every Vice President to re-examine his or her area activities to ensure that we have appropriate work schedules with a balance of teleworking, reassigned activities, and face to face components. They will work closely with supervisors to determine any necessary changes.

Many of you may have received communication from Chancellor Malhotra yesterday through your bargaining units or student union. The Chancellor has reiterated his guidance on how our colleges and universities must respond. This week, he shared his guidance for Minnesota State that aligns with the current Executive Order from Governor Walz:

“Work with faculty and staff, identify if there are additional components for in-person classes that can be moved online, and where in-person components must still occur, campuses should deploy even more stringent mitigation strategies.

I know throughout the semester, our campuses have continually re-evaluated the services and operations that must be available for their students and how to best deliver those in a safe manner. I fully expect that these conversations are happening in haste on each and every campus.

I also shared that at this time, there is no change in our direction for spring semester. There are too many unknowns at this time but rest assured that we will continue working directly with MDH and will make the necessary pivots if and when necessary.”
-Chancellor Malhotra

The good news is, LSC has already moved swiftly and effectively to create a safe and healthy campus environment, and we continue to make adjustments and practices as the situation warrants. To help you continue to be safe, healthy, and help keep others safe and healthy, our

LSC team continues to update the latest information on our COVID-19 website: <https://www.lsc.edu/coronavirus/>. We have also created a COVID-19 Guide to help you determine what to do to prevent the spread. Find that printable guide at: <https://www.lsc.edu/helppreventspread/>.

As you have likely heard, MDH is encouraging most people, especially those in the 18-35 age range, to get tested prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. Even if you have no symptoms and don't believe you've had any direct exposure to those who could be affected, MDH is still recommending getting testing to ensure you're not an asymptomatic carrier. We are fortunate to have a free testing site here in Duluth at the DECC. They, and other testing sites through the state, are now offering testing 7 days a week. For more information on these testing sites, please visit: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/>.

And as always, please let us know if you have questions or concerns, or if there are ways our campus leaders can be of assistance or support. Students are encouraged to contact Wade Gordon, Dean of Students, at wade.gordon@lsc.edu and remain in communication with your instructors. Employees please work with your supervisors, administrators, and HR if you have COVID related questions or concerns.

Everyone is also always welcome to send general inquiries to info@lsc.edu and our team will help get those messages to the most appropriate contacts.

Be well, be safe. We can do this, Icehawks!

Patricia L. Rogers, Ph.D.
President
Lake Superior College
Pronouns: She, Her, Hers -- [More about pronouns](#)