



COLLEGE OF
MOUNT SAINT VINCENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

To: All Students, Faculty, Staff, and Administrators

From: Charles L. Flynn, J.D. President

Date: August 21, 2020

RE: Reopening for the Fall

A number of students and employees have communicated questions or concerns about reopening in-seat. Somewhat disconcerting are those who write that they know of or have not been informed of any plans governing reopening. The College distributed broadly an executive summary of the plans for a safe reopening on July 17. If you did not receive it, it is available prominently on our website www.mountsaintvincent.edu.

As titled, it is, of course, a summary. The full plans are, of course, voluminous. There are schedules and protocols for deep cleaning and for the inspection of deep cleaning. Academic Affairs did a great deal of work determining socially-distanced classroom capacities, re-sectioning and rescheduling classes, making arrangements for faculty members who must have accommodations to teach while ensuring that students have the direct interactive experience that we know demonstratively and significantly increases active learning and student accomplishment. And Student Government, Student Activities, Campus Ministry, and Athletics are working diligently to create a safely socially distanced, vital campus life because we know the importance of engagement outside the classroom, as well. We have negotiated with area hotels in the event we need additional space. The list is impenetrably long and detailed.

Some of the interesting questions for campus focus on enforcement. Perhaps because nationally there appears to be a problem with mask-wearing and social distancing among 20-somethings, a number of students and staff express doubts that our students will follow protocols.

I have never found Mount students to be stupid. Nationally, watching some people rebel against safety protocols has re-enlivened my confidence in Darwin. Our CDC-compliant protocols are designed to help people keep themselves safe and to keep each other safe. So,

too, compliance is everyone's responsibility. "Shirt and Shoes Required" does not require a police presence, and neither do our safety protocols. Everyone, every administrator, staff member, faculty member, and student member of this community is obligated to remind anyone who has forgotten to comply with a safety protocol that they must promptly do so.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back from a distance.