



July 28, 2020

Dear Students,

The City of St. Louis as well as the St. Louis County have recently reported an uptick in COVID-19 cases. In fact, earlier today, St. Louis County announced new COVID-19 restrictions to help slow the pace of the spread of the virus in St. Louis County. It is expected that St. Louis City will soon implement similar restrictions and guidelines.

The recent COVID-19 community spread in St. Louis has also affected Harris-Stowe State University. Last week, Harris-Stowe temporarily closed its campus after eight administrative employees reported testing positive for COVID-19 during a three-week period. Only two of the eight cases have been confirmed through documentation. This announcement may have come as a surprise to some and created a little anxiety for many; however, I want to reassure you that Harris-Stowe is following all safety procedures to ensure students can return safely for the fall semester.

The staff members, who were affected, worked in the Henry Givens, Jr. Administrative Building. At this time, there is no evidence that any of the cases are related. During our closure, all campus buildings will undergo a deep cleaning before the University is expected to reopen on August 10.

I want you to know that the University takes reported positive COVID-19 cases seriously. We have been transparent in sharing information concerning identified cases in our campus community. We feel compelled to inform not only our faculty and staff, but our students as well. We have implemented all the procedures and guidelines recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for identifying potential COVID-19 cases. This includes temperature checks, health surveys, mask mandates, and mandatory quarantine, if someone has been exposed to COVID-19.

When a faculty or staff member reports testing positive for COVID-19, the following steps are immediately taken by the University:

- We notify all employees in the identified office and quickly close the office;
- The employees in the designated office must have COVID-19 tests before returning;
- Employees in the recognized office work remotely for the next 15 workdays while quarantining;
- A third-party vendor thoroughly sanitizes and disinfects the recognized office; and
- A memo is sent to the campus community, notifying them of reported cases.

In the interim, student services will continue. Students can call or email their Student Success Coach or faculty advisor to register for online, virtual, or hybrid/blended classes for the fall semester. You can also contact financial aid, residential life, the registrar, and other student service offices.

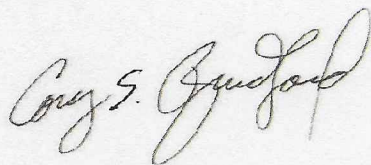


Earlier this month, Harris-Stowe released its reopening plan for the fall 2020 semester. The reopening plan is a three-phased approach to transition back to campus safely and deliberately. It represents a culmination of efforts from University leadership and healthcare experts to provide a framework for students to return to campus safely. If you have not had an opportunity to review the plan, I strongly encourage you to do so. A complete copy of the University's Fall 2020 COVID-19 Campus Reopening Plan can be found at [www.hssu.edu/c19](http://www.hssu.edu/c19).

These are unprecedented times and we would like to return to normal by having all our students, faculty and staff return to campus full-time. However, we must recognize there will be a new normal.

I want to reassure you that Harris-Stowe is a safe place and that your health and safety is our highest priority. That is why we have taken the approach to be transparent in sharing reported cases of COVID-19 on our campus. We are constantly assessing this situation and will continue to keep the campus community updated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Corey S. Bradford, Sr.", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Corey S. Bradford, Sr.  
President