

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020

Dear members of the YHC campus community,

On Monday, Sept. 7, the College made the decision to shift all on-campus classes to fully online delivery in response to a substantial increase in the number of confirmed positive COVID-19 tests among residential students. Since that decision, the YHC campus has experienced a significant decline in the number of presumed and confirmed COVID-19 cases, and numerous students have been or will be released from isolation and quarantine this week. Based on these trends, the following changes will be made to our plans:

- **Beginning Monday, Sept. 21, all on-campus classes will shift back to Phase 1 delivery.** This modality will remain in place until at least Monday, Oct. 5, and it may be extended if necessary. Classes that take place off campus remain unaffected.
- **Beginning Monday, Sept. 21, athletic teams will begin a gradual return to practice at the discretion of the Director of Athletics in consultation with other athletic administrators and coaches.** Details regarding return-to-practice plans will be communicated to those involved.

Campus offices will continue to operate as scheduled, with previously announced face covering and social distancing requirements in place. Faculty members will resume their Phase 1 method of instruction. Staff members will continue to report to work unless alternate arrangements have been approved by their supervisors. Dining facilities will continue to operate as scheduled.

Contact tracing continues to indicate that nearly all viral transmission on campus has occurred in residential facilities, with currently no confirmed cases among College employees or Sodexo employees. Based on this data, the following rules will remain in place:

- **No visitors, including other Young Harris College students, are permitted as guests in residence hall rooms, suites or apartments.** Only students assigned to a particular residence hall room, suite or apartment are allowed in that space at any time.
- **No gatherings of any size are allowed in residence hall common areas at any time.** Students are welcome to participate in officially sanctioned events monitored by professional staff members, such as chapel services, student activities and performing arts rehearsals, provided all attendees wear face coverings and maintain social distance. Students are also welcome to congregate outdoors, again provided the face covering and social distancing requirements are rigorously maintained.

Any student who breaches either of these rules will face interim suspension from campus housing for violations of Standards 2 and 17 of the Student Code of Conduct and will not be allowed to remain in campus housing while the alleged violation is adjudicated.

Thank you for your continued flexibility as we navigate a challenging semester. Please continue to monitor your health, report any symptoms as instructed and follow all published health and safety procedures.

Stay strong, Mountain Lions,

Jason A. Pierce, Ph.D.
Provost