

Sept. 2, 2020

Dear YHC community,

Thank you for your tireless efforts in following the health and safety protocols developed by the Pandemic Recovery Task Force. As a result of your ongoing commitment to wearing face coverings, maintaining social distance, practicing good hygiene, limiting gatherings and participating in random screenings, we have managed to keep the rate of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our community well below the levels in the region and the state. As a matter of fact, according to the update posted on [YHC Connect](#) on Monday, there are currently 0 confirmed cases among YHC students and employees within the past two weeks! While this number can change at any minute, this is a significant achievement that we should be proud of. I continue to be humbled by your shared dedication to maintaining the health of our community.

As a result, I am pleased to announce that, barring any significant changes, **we will move to Phase 2 of our [Return-to-Class plan](#) on Tuesday, Sept. 8.** In Phase 2, the following changes will occur:

- Course section capacity limits will be lifted. The dividing of classes into alternating subsections, with some students meeting on one day and some on another, will end. Classes that were reassigned to larger instructional spaces (e.g., Wilson, Hatcher, Org Loft) will return to their original assigned instructional spaces.
- Instructors with approved exemptions to in-class instruction during Phase 1 will return to meet with their classes face-to-face. Instructors with approved exemptions during Phase 2 will continue to deliver instruction online.
- Restrictions on large ensembles will continue for the time being. The Provost and Dean of Fine Arts will work with performing arts faculty members to determine appropriate step-down procedures that ensure students' and instructors' continued well-being.
- Cloth face coverings will continue to be required during all class meetings and in all indoor spaces. Exceptions are when one is in one's own residence hall room/suite when no guests are present, when one is bathing, or when one is eating in the Grace Rollins Dining Hall or in spaces in the Rollins Campus Center designated for takeout dining.
Note that face coverings, which must cover the nose and mouth to be effective, will continue to be required in all hallways and in all common spaces at all times.
- Individuals will be required (not "encouraged," as in the published plan) to maintain social distance when and where possible.
- Visitors will continue to be prohibited from campus without prior approval.

To encourage us all to continue practices that will ensure the health of the community, the College will be taking the following additional steps:

- Enforcement of the cloth face covering requirement will be strengthened. Students and employees who do not comply will face disciplinary action. Repeated violations will result in suspension or termination.
- Temperature screenings will be expanded in high-traffic spaces.
- Individuals who violate the ban on gatherings (i.e., no more than one guest per resident in a room/suite or hosting unauthorized visitors on campus) will be required to quarantine off campus until they can provide a negative COVID-19 test or until 14 days pass. Any individual who violates either ban a second time will be suspended immediately.
- The members of the Pandemic Recovery Task Force will continue to monitor reports of infections and exposures to determine if the College should progress to Phase 3 (no

sooner than Tuesday, Sept. 22), revert to Phase 1, implement additional restrictions or requirements, or convert to fully online instruction. All options continue to be on the table.

If you have any questions about YHC's transition to Phase 2, **please direct those to COVID-19info@yhc.edu**.

Again, thank you for adhering to the rules that are designed to keep us all healthy. Doing so demonstrates how much you care for your fellow Mountain Lions. Keep it up, and we'll make it through this together.

Stay Mountain Lion strong!

Drew L. Van Horn, Ph.D.
President
Young Harris College