

EMPLOYEE UPDATE: COVID-19
11.09.2020

Dear Faculty and Staff,

Franciscan University has maintained a relatively low number of COVID cases throughout the semester, in part because we are in a region of the country that has enjoyed a relatively low number of community infections.

However, local cases have been on the rise recently, and Jefferson County is now considered an “advisory level Red” county in Ohio. There has been an increase in confirmed positive COVID cases in the local area and community spread. The University has also seen an increase in positive cases last week especially among commuter students.

While we only had one confirmed employee case last week, over the last several days, we have witnessed a significant increase in the numbers of employees who are in quarantine, isolation, or are otherwise unable to report to work due to COVID-19 symptoms or suspected contact.

Please keep in mind that our goal is to finish this semester! A sharp rise in positive cases or too many quarantined students, staff, or faculty jeopardize our goal.

We need to take particular care in the days and weeks ahead:

- [Monitor yourself for symptoms](#) and take your temperature daily before reporting to work. Do not report to work with symptoms of COVID-19 (including fever/chills, cough/congestion, or a loss of smell or taste), or any other communicable illness. If you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive do not report to work. If you have tested positive please contact Human Resources (Mary Lynn Lewis, mlewis@franciscan.edu. *6398).

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, you are encouraged to consult your physician first. If this is not possible or if your physician is not able to prescribe COVID testing, you are encouraged to then contact Charlotte Jones in the Wellness Center x5787 / cjones@franciscan.edu. After consultation, Charlotte may be able to provide a prescription for COVID testing at the Trinity drive-thru test site.

- [Wear a facial covering](#) while indoors at all times unless you are working alone in your assigned work area.
- [Maintain social distancing](#) of six feet to the greatest extent possible.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Peace and blessings,

Brenan

Brenan Pergi
Vice President of Human Resources
Franciscan University of Steubenville
740.283.6445 / bjergi@franciscan.edu