

# **A**DVANCE<sup>TM</sup>

**INITIAL FALL 2020 SEMESTER PLAN**

## CHANCELLOR'S LETTER

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LSUA Family,

I am looking forward to the fall as I truly miss seeing and visiting with our students, faculty, and staff on campus. We are doing everything we can to ensure your return. We also know each of you have numerous questions about what things are going to look like, and we are doing our best to provide you with as much information as possible. This document is to serve as an update on plans for the fall semester. Please know this continues to be a moving target as each day brings new challenges and the potential need for plan adjustments; however, we all remain positive and continue to do everything needed for a fall return to campus while keeping everyone as safe as possible.

The *Advance Plan* has been developed by the LSUA COVID-19 Task Force to assist the University as we prepare to return for the 2020-2021 school-year. The plan has been developed using a substantial amount of research and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Louisiana State University administrative team, and local and state officials. This plan consists of University policies for the safety of all campus constituents as well as educational resources. Please take the time to read through and educate yourself as we prepare for our much anticipated return.

It has been an honor to serve as your chancellor during these unprecedented times. The work and dedication of all of you continues to inspire and amaze me every day. I want to thank each of you for your flexibility and resiliency as we all continue to navigate these uncharted waters and do everything we can to achieve our educational mission on behalf of the people we serve right here in Central Louisiana.

At this time, please make sure that you are doing your part to ensure we can continue to make progress in our plan to return to campus. Wear a mask, wash your hands, and physically distance when and where appropriate. Let's all band together and take the necessary steps now, so that we can proceed with our plans to be back together in the fall.

Thank you again for all you do! Stay safe and stay healthy!

Sincerely,



Paul Coreil, Ph.D.  
LSUA Chancellor

## HEALTH & SAFETY

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The welfare of students, faculty, staff, and guests is the University's foremost concern. Accordingly, we are adopting a number of practices to minimize risks. That said, safeguarding the campus community is a mutual obligation. The University will take appropriate steps, but members of the community must also be accountable and responsible for their health and the health of the wider community.

### UNIVERSITY STEPS

#### 1. Physical Distancing

- Classroom capacity limited to 50% to reduce risk and increase physical distancing
- Options for remote learning and HyFlex\* scheduling
- Limiting capacity for events or moving events outdoors
- Physical divides – such as plexiglass barriers – at desks and frequently visited offices
- Guidance to minimize traffic in hallways between classes and at student services

#### 2. Disinfecting & Cleaning

- Daily cleaning of classrooms, common areas, and student services desks and windows, and frequently touched surfaces
- Disinfecting wipes available for students to wipe down spaces before and after classes
- Increased number of hand sanitizer and soap dispensers in high-traffic areas

#### 3. Communication

- Continued updates to the University's COVID-19 webpage, [here](#) or visit <http://lsua.it/Fs38>
- Ongoing messages from the administration about protocols and practices

### PERSONAL STEPS

#### 1. Monitor Your Health

- Be aware of common symptoms (listed below) and avoid campus if you experience them

#### 2. Tips & Prevention

- Wash hands frequently, including after touching common surfaces, using the restroom, or sharing office or school supplies
- Wear a face covering and cover coughs and sneezes
- Refrain from contact like handshakes, hugs, or other physical interactions
- Limit gatherings and maintain social distance

#### 3. Mental Health & Wellbeing

- This is a difficult time for many reasons, and if you need to speak to a counselor, contact the Division of Enrollment and Student Engagement at 318-767-2604 or email [csandoval@lsua.edu](mailto:csandoval@lsua.edu) or [ctilley@lsua.edu](mailto:ctilley@lsua.edu) to schedule an appointment; appointments can be in person or via videoconference.
- The State of Louisiana also provides telecounseling options 24/7 for individuals with stress related to COVID-19 by calling 1-866-310-7977.

\*See page 5

## TESTING & HEALTH PROTOCOLS

Testing, quarantine, and contact tracing are a critical part of containing the spread of SARS-CoV-2, so the University's risk management officer will provide weekly updates on testing locations in Rapides Parish. Testing sites are updated regularly for all parishes at the Louisiana Department of Health website, [here](#) or visit <http://lsua.it/Tm39>.

It is critical to avoid campus if you are experiencing the symptoms of COVID-19,

have tested positive for COVID-19, or have had recent close (within six feet for fifteen minutes or more) contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Again, **DO NOT COME TO CAMPUS IF YOU ARE SICK OR HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO IS SICK.** Students should attend class remotely if feeling ill.

Current recommendations and requirements for individuals who may be positive for COVID-19 or have been exposed to COVID-19 are listed in the table below.

Symptomatic Confirmed Positive	Symptomatic Awaiting Test/Confirmed Negative	Asymptomatic Confirmed Positive	Asymptomatic COVID19 Close Contact*
<p>Immediate 10-day isolation unless otherwise indicated by a healthcare provider</p> <p>Attend class remotely</p> <p>Only students who are unable to isolate at home will be provided campus accommodations</p> <p>Monitor symptoms; additional testing may be necessary</p> <p>Three days with no symptoms (ten days after symptoms began) before returning to campus (without fever-suppressing medication)</p> <p>Compliance with local public health quarantine orders</p>	<p>Immediate quarantine while awaiting test results</p> <p>Attend class remotely</p> <p>Students are encouraged to quarantine at home</p> <p>Monitor symptoms; additional testing may be necessary</p> <p>Three days with no symptoms before returning to campus (without fever-suppressing medication)</p> <p>Compliance with local public health quarantine orders</p>	<p>Immediate 10-day isolation unless otherwise indicated by a healthcare provider</p> <p>Attend class remotely</p> <p>Only students who are unable to isolate at home will be provided campus accommodations</p> <p>Monitor symptoms; additional testing may be necessary</p> <p>Compliance with local public health quarantine orders</p>	<p>Immediate 14-day quarantine unless otherwise indicated by a healthcare provider</p> <p>Attend class remotely</p> <p>Students are encouraged to quarantine at home</p> <p>Monitor symptoms; additional testing may be necessary</p> <p>Compliance with local public health quarantine orders</p> <p><i>*Being within six feet of someone who is positive for COVID-19 for fifteen minutes or more, with or without a face covering.</i></p>

\*If anyone should receive a positive COVID-19 test result, he or she is required to notify LSUA by contacting Daniel Manuel ([daniel.manuel@lsua.edu](mailto:daniel.manuel@lsua.edu))

## MASK INFORMATION

The University is also a community, and community members are expected to avoid endangering the health of other members of the community. This is best achieved by wearing a face covering when it is not possible to maintain six feet of distance between individuals. Coverings must be worn when indoors or when unable to distance outside, and must cover nose and mouth. Faculty and staff should also wear face coverings in shared office spaces. Students in violation may be charged with Failure to Comply under the Student Code of Conduct, as quoted here:

Defying the order or instruction of a University official, other authorized person on behalf of the University or any University policy, contract, mandate or rule. This includes emergency protocols put in place during times such as, but not only, a natural disaster or a pandemic.

## SELF-MONITORING & EDUCATION

The campus community is encouraged to stay abreast of the latest information about COVID-19. Monitoring for common symptoms is an important step in protecting your health and the health of the entire campus. Symptoms typically appear between two and 14 days after exposure, but some people experience no symptoms. More information about COVID-19 symptoms and a self-check to help with decisions about appropriate care are available from the Centers for Disease Control website, [here](#) or visit <http://lsua.it/Hz3q>

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever
- Chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Fatigue or muscle aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea

## DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS

The University will follow current processes for students with disabilities who request accommodations. Students who would like to requests accommodations should contact Daniel Manuel at [disabilityservices@lsua.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@lsua.edu). Please keep in mind accommodations need to be requested each semester.

## OPERATIONS

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### INSTRUCTIONAL & LEARNING SPACES

The University will offer multiple options for students to complete their coursework. This will enable every student to meet their needs, while feeling safe and comfortable. Course offerings will include on-campus, remote, HyFlex, and 100-percent online classes.

On-campus classes have been adjusted to ensure small class sizes in larger classroom spaces. This will facilitate physical distancing for faculty and students.

**Remote learning** will consist of classes designed to be taught face-to-face. Lectures will be held on specific days/times, and students are expected to login to the required video conference and participate during the designated class time. Remote courses offer students the opportunity to have a structured class environment and engage on a personal level with classmates and faculty without physically being on campus.

The **HyFlex** option is a hybrid between on-campus and remote. Students will rotate between meeting in a classroom and via video conference.

Courses that are **100 percent online** will continue as normal. Students may login at their convenience and complete coursework and discussion online.

All regular faculty and staff support for instruction will continue. Office hours may be held via video conference or telephone. The Writing Center and tutoring programs will also continue, with options to meet via video conference. LSUA also offers 100 percent online tutoring via ThinkingStorm on the student's MyLSUA portal.

Several spaces around campus will be designated as study/remote work areas. These areas will be appropriately spaced and allow students to login to their remote courses if they have other classes in-person that day.

## **HOUSING & DINING**

To ensure the safety of our Residential Life staff and residents, common areas, including the Club House, will see increased cleaning. Occupancy will be limited to no more than one person per bedroom.

The move-in process will also be restructured to minimize risks. Move-in will take place over two days, with assigned days and times provided to residents. Freshmen will move in on August 21st. All other students will move in on August 22nd. All paperwork required for move-in will be signed digitally prior to arrival.

During move-in, students will drive by and show an ID through a plastic partition. Staff will confirm their room number and issue them a "move-in packet" containing keys and a map to their apartment. Instructions for reporting issues with the apartment and other key Residential Life information will be on the bed of each resident. Additionally, if a student orders books through the LSUA Bookstore and requests it, bookstore staff will place the student's books in their bedroom prior to check-in. This will allow the student to avoid a high-traffic area.

Dining will continue to operate on a grab-and-go basis, rather than buffet style, with limited seating in the Magnolia Cafeteria. Intensive cleaning of tables and surfaces will take place daily. There will also be additional hand sanitizer dispensers in the cafeteria. More information to come.

## **STUDENT LIFE**

Under the University's plan for the Fall semester, Student Life events and organizations will follow appropriate social distancing guidelines, including holding meetings and events in virtual formats if possible. Socially distanced student organization meetings will be allowed. Events and programs will be held outside to the extent possible.

## **ORIENTATION**

Orientation will be held in a virtual format. Students will be able to view and interact with sessions that are designed to help them become familiar with LSUA, learn how to become a successful student, and (virtually) meet others in the Freshman Class of 2020! More information will be available soon. Visit the Orientation webpage at: [lsua.edu/fye/orientation](http://lsua.edu/fye/orientation)

## **ATHLETICS & RECREATION**

Athletics will follow all guidelines as directed by the NAIA, along with federal, state, and local authorities and will adhere to social distancing guidelines for campus athletic facilities. These guidelines will include reduced occupancy in the training and weight rooms and enhanced cleaning of equipment. All athletics staff will be required to wear masks.

## **CLEANING & FACILITIES**

Resources will be dedicated to daily cleaning of classrooms, high-touch surfaces, and common areas. Best practices for disinfection, according to CDC recommendations, will be followed.

## **REFERENCES & OTHER RESOURCES**

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- [Louisiana Department of Health \(LDH\)](http://ldh.la.gov/)  
or visit <http://ldh.la.gov/>
- [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov/)  
or visit <https://www.cdc.gov/>
- [American College Health Association \(ACHA\)](https://www.acha.org/)  
or visit <https://www.acha.org/>