



DAEMEN

COLLEGE

A World of Opportunity

Office of the President

This message has been approved for distribution as part of Daemen College's COVID-19 official response.

November 9, 2020

Daemen College
Students, Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are having a productive semester, and I want to extend my thanks to everyone for your diligence in keeping our campus healthy and safe these past several months. We have made it to November, and that is all due to your commitment to respect to protect.

Unfortunately, though, the nation is not faring quite as well as the College—it is experiencing a serious spike in COVID cases. While things are being managed exceptionally well here at Daemen, we cannot overlook the spike happening in WNY. I am pleased to report that our active positive cases are still in the single digits, but the number of quarantines have been steadily increasing, presenting a cause for caution. With Thanksgiving coming up in a little more than two weeks, we had to make some proactive decisions.

We have decided that we will begin remote instruction starting Monday, November 16—about a week earlier than planned. Once the College moves to remote instruction, while faculty may be able to teach in their assigned classrooms, students will not be permitted to be present during that instruction. Access to computer labs and study space will not be affected.

Additionally, it is important to note that when we go remote with classes, the College is not closed. We have a number of students who will depend on us for housing, meals, WiFi, research, etc. All of our same standards will remain in place and—unless required by the state, or other changing conditions—we will not be restricting access to campus further than we already have been.

With regards to staff, we will continue to empower Cabinet members to be able to provide flexibility to team members who might need to work remotely. We continue to ask that individuals who need flexibility with partial working from home to discuss this with their supervisor. Since the College will remain open, we expect, of course, adherence to some basic expectations to ensure that work is being completed and the College is able to operate effectively.

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I am proud of the role Daemen has had in protecting community members, keeping this campus safe, and providing flexibility to faculty and staff as needed. We will continue to do that to the extent we can and for as long as we can.

Please note that the College will continue monitoring positive cases and exposures as they have been. Starting this week, anyone who is identified as being exposed to a positive COVID case by our contact tracing team will be taken by our team for an immediate COVID test. If they are negative, they will be sent home to quarantine. This is a strategic move by the institution to ensure that no one is stuck here in quarantine during the holiday and that they are not going home to infect others.

Nothing in this message changes anything regarding previously released communication from student affairs regarding student housing. Students in campus housing should continue to follow those instructions for staying, departing, and changing rooms, if applicable.

Daemen will continue making decisions in the best interest of individuals and this community. I am proud of the Daemen community for our patience and resilience, and I wish you continued success as we pull through to the end of the fall semester.

Cordially,



Gary A. Olson
President