



DAEMEN

COLLEGE

A World of Opportunity

Office of the President

July 9, 2020

Daemen College
Students, Faculty, and Staff

Dear Daemen Community Members,

Over the past several weeks, the college has made tremendous progress in preparing to welcome students, faculty, and staff safely back to campus in anticipation of starting in-person classes as scheduled on September 8.

Earlier this month, we submitted a comprehensive campus reopening plan to New York State that includes detailed protocols and guidelines on Daemen's resuming on-campus operations and measures to protect the health and safety of the entire college community. The complete plan is available to all MyDaemen users on the daemen.edu/covid19 website.

Daemen's Emergency Response Team, which has led our COVID-19 response since the pandemic began, has worked tirelessly to develop this exceptional in-depth reopening plan, which goes above and beyond what is required by New York State. I extend my deepest thanks to the members of the ERT for all they have done throughout this public health crisis and for creating a plan that promotes a safe and healthy campus environment and a robust college experience for our students.

While we understand there will be an adjustment to the "new normal" when you return to campus, your commitment to adhering to our health and safety guidelines will be key to ensuring the success of our institutional efforts to safeguard the health and well-being of our college community. A number of measures are in place across campus that are vital to reopening, including a process for screening, testing, and mandatory use of PPE; cleaning and sterilization of rooms and equipment; campus signage and floor markers for social distancing; density control for classrooms, offices, residence halls, and other areas; dining services protocols; and adjustments to many other areas.

As part of our reopening plan, COVID-19 testing will be required for all students, faculty, and staff members. We believe that this mandatory testing, which will be done at no cost to you, is a

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critical step in protecting the health of the campus community. To date, two “waves” of employees who have returned to working on campus have completed COVID-19 testing and a third wave will be done this weekend. In the coming weeks, information will be provided on testing dates and the process for the final wave of employees scheduled to return to work on campus in August and for resident and commuter students. Details on check-in and pick-up of Welcome Back Wellness Kits will also be distributed in the near future.

Daemen students will soon receive a Student Reopening Guide in the mail. This reference guide provides important information on safety measures, use of face masks/coverings, campus cleaning and disinfecting, and other pertinent guidelines for returning to campus. The guide also contains information on Daemen’s new visitor policies that includes use of an online clearance form and a new visitor check-in kiosk at the Wick Center Campus Safety Desk. We encourage all students to check their Daemen email regularly for additional updates in the weeks ahead.

To reinforce other efforts regarding the use of face masks/coverings when on campus, you will see Save a Life cards being handed out when you return to Daemen—a green card is to thank you for wearing a face mask and helping to keep the campus safe, and a red card is a friendly reminder that wearing a mask can help save a life. Know that policies are in place for those who do not adhere to our health and safety requirements.

The pandemic is a fluid situation with ever-changing conditions that will require us to continue to respond accordingly to federal and state guidelines and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as local health officials. The resiliency of our campus community and the meticulous planning for our return have made it possible for all of us to be together again. We are a supportive and caring college community. I am confident that we have the resolve and agility to persevere through this public health crisis and that our response to this unprecedented situation will make us an even stronger college.

Be sure to look for additional email/video updates through the summer or visit the Daemen COVID-19 website for more information. I appreciate your patience as we implement these necessary changes for reopening, and I look forward to welcoming you back to campus. Please stay safe and healthy.

Cordially,



Gary A. Olson
President