

the scoop

COVID-19 information and updates

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Breaking News Reporter

COVID-19. It has been talked about for all of the summer, and we will continue to bring you updates throughout the semester to keep you informed so you can make the best health decision.

Rick Ewing, vice president of operation and planning, has been preparing for the return of students by cleaning, sanitizing and even researching the contents of the cleaning supplies.

“We’ve been focused on deep intensive cleaning throughout campus,” Ewing said. “Everything has been cleaned thoroughly for the last several months. We have made schedules and protocols to make sure we have the CDC recommended cleaning.”

Procedures for every classroom has been put into place: faculty will disinfect once class lets out with the bottles and rags provided.

“The message that’s been out there is all about having people understand the situation,” Ewing said. “Personal commitment to doing what we need to do to keep

everyone safe and protect the university from an outbreak.”

Green Shield Badge

Campus Shield is an app that acts as an emergency notification system. On it, there is a function for a COVID-19 assessment.

Students are responsible for updating their symptoms and acting accordingly. If students answer “no” for each question, they will have a green shield badge that is valid for 24 hours.

The green shield badge will be needed to enter the rec center and everyone is required to download it.

Isolation vs. Quarantine

The difference between isolation and quarantine is simple: sickness. Isolation will happen when an individual is too sick to travel and tested positive. Quarantine means an individual may be symptomatic but has not yet tested positive.

According to the town hall meeting that took place Aug. 27, Dr. Robert Pool, vice president for

student affairs, said that isolation room for those who are too sick to travel.

A private list of cases will be updated to coordinate their needs on campus and will be paired with a Care Team member: a volunteer faculty/staff member used for communication and keeping up with necessities.

Students can find the COVID-19 Dashboard on the AU website (head to the AU website and click on Return to Campus: Stronger Together, Safer Together). This tracks cases for the AU community. Information about any other question a student, parent or faculty member could have is answered in the dropdown boxes on the upper left-hand side.

“All information is in one convenient place for students,” Shawn Orr, director of the Center for Innovation & Teaching Excellence, and professional instructor of communication studies, said.

Testing

Unlike some schools, AU students will not be tested to return on cam-

pus.

“There are some false positives with testing,” Dr. Carlos Campo, president of AU, said during the town hall meeting. “If folks are symptomatic, if they are feeling that they are under the weather and may have symptoms, there is testing on campus and in the community.”

Academics

Commuter students, or students who do not want to spend all day in their dorm, can go to specific locations on campus for a quiet space to do work. This list can be found by going to the Students dropbox and clicking Virtual Class Space (from the AU website: Return to Campus: Stronger Together, Safer Together link). Locations include the Chapel, Andrews and Bixler.

The Center for Innovation and Teaching Excellence (CITE) helps faculty develop their skills and learning experiences for students, by providing support, resources and collaborative programs.

Over the summer, CITE in conjunction with the Department of

Academic Technology and the LearnAU Instructional Designers, offered eight High Impact Summer Faculty Institutes for 134 AU faculty, ranging from 3-18 hours.

Instruction and support on virtual learning design, digital course materials, syllabus development, group work and engagement, utilizing BlackBoard, course communication, supporting virtual learning and creating virtual instructor presence were included.

“Faculty had the opportunity to ask questions about the development of fall courses and support each other during small group dialogue,” Orr says. This past week, Fall Faculty College was held which “included a keynote presentation by EAB on how COVID-19 is impacting faculty and students for fall 2020 and how faculty can support students during this dynamic and changing semester.”

There were also 15 professional development sessions for faculty on everything from effectively using classroom technology, to presentation skills while wearing a face mask to planning a productive and balanced semester.

The Ohio CDC recommends:
»Washing your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds
»Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer
»Avoid touching eyes, mouth and nose
»Stay home when you are sick, even if the symptoms are minor
»Avoid contact with people who are sick
»Clean “high-touch” surfaces daily



Christine Jenkinson

Signs regarding masks and COVID-19 safety were placed outside of each building on campus.

November election grows closer, voter registration deadline draws near

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With uncertainties weighing on the world in terms of health and safety during a time of pandemic, politics plays a key role, and so does the president.

The Nov. 3 Presidential election is quickly approaching and the two primary candidates have a whole new topic to cover and prepare to discuss. COVID-19 struck at a crucial moment in both campaigns, where the candidates, like a lot of other politicians, had to find a way to connect to the American people using technology and distanced campaigning.

will start beginning Oct. 6, but there will be other times available in a schedule posted on Ohio.gov.

In-person voting the day of the election is still up in the air in some places, but in the state of Ohio, it is being offered from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., but before showing up, the government urges everyone to check to see whether they are registered and where the closest polling location is.

A quick breakdown

President Donald Trump focused on immigration, foreign policy, the economy, and job growth in his speeches for re-election. In a press

ning.

The two come from opposite parties, but offer one similarity in strategy: both candidates do not want to see the parties mischaracterized as extremist groups. Biden shows a different form of democratic candidate than those who typically are in the race, with most of his views straying from strict liberal ideas.

Trump found himself drawn to the Republican Party one year, and Democratic the next, but as of 2017, RealClearPolitics reports that Trump called himself a “total nationalist”.

The candidates continue to release updates every day regarding the status of their campaign, including details about their thoughts and beliefs and being a voice of authority in uncertain times.

Until then, researching candidates and learning why they are running/ what changes they will bring to this country helps voters to make informed decisions.

Debate information

The first presidential debate is taking place on Sept. 29 at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland. The vice president debate is shortly after on Oct. 7.

Following the first debate, there will be two more on Oct. 15 and Oct. 22 between the two primary candidates.

Those debates will all be aired on national news channels like Fox and CNN.



Retrieved from: Boston Globe

Biden and running mate Harris stand together with masks after giving a speech together.

The voting registration deadline is Oct. 5

A few important dates are coming up quickly for those who are interested in voting.

The voting registration deadline is Oct. 5, while the deadline to request an absentee ballot is Oct. 31, all of the forms can be found online at the Ohio Secretary of State’s website, olvr.ohiosos.gov.

Those who vote absentee need to have their ballot postmarked by Nov. 3, according to the Secretary of State’s website. Students wanting to vote without the hassle of driving home should request an absentee ballot so the vote is counted.

Early voting is also an option and

conference held on Aug. 31, Trump highlighted on the growth that the stock market has seen in the last few months.

Former Vice President Joe Biden announced on Aug. 11 that his running mate would be Kamala Harris, who entered into the presidential race earlier, but dropped out due to “lack of funds” on Dec. 3, 2019. Shortly after, she endorsed Biden.

Biden has been focusing his campaign on defeating Trump. From the very beginning, Biden has challenged Trump’s ideas and questioned decisions, which ultimately led to his decision of run-



Retrieved from: AP News

Trump visited a military hospital on July 11, marking his first sighting wearing a mask.