Dear colleagues,

Due to the dedicated efforts of our students, faculty and staff, we have managed through the anticipated initial surge in student infections with COVID-19 and are preparing to move cautiously towards more in-person classes on our campuses. We are reinforced in this decision by the fact that we do not have any evidence to date of coronavirus spread within our classrooms, labs or workspaces. This demonstrates the continued value of our hierarchy of controls approach to mitigating disease spread on our campuses. In particular, it is vitally important that the Administrative Directive on face coverings continues to be robustly upheld in all classroom settings.

I am writing to share that the next step in our staged re-entry will be to permit Stage 2 In-Person Courses (all less than 30 students) to migrate to the planned in-person delivery modes. This does not include Stage 2 classes that are categorized as Flex In-Person, nor any independent study, research, or practicum courses. In making this adjustment, we anticipate that the number of students coming to campus will increase by about 50% (from around 5,800 to 8,600). We are currently working to determine the date for this moving to the next stage, and will communicate that information to campus shortly, provided the trends we are seeing continue, but I wanted to give you this advance notice, for your own planning purposes. Because your class was previously scheduled to provide in-person instructional delivery during Stage 2, I ask you to work with your students in order to prepare them for this migration. Thank you in advance for doing your best to provide appropriate accommodations to any students who might require them during this difficult time.

I appreciate your continued flexibility in approaching this next step, which will be welcomed by many of our students who are craving direct engagement with you and with their classmates.

Once again, I ask that you please work with your academic unit leader and building supervisors if there are specific questions you have about this next step in our staged re-entry plan. In addition, if your personal circumstances have changed, please follow the process for Temporary Modified Work Conditions described here. All supervisors are reminded of the need to approach the work assignments of our faculty, staff and student employees with as much flexibility and adaptability as circumstances will allow, most especially since K-12 schools are not operating normally at this time.

Lastly, if you would like to access your assigned classroom before starting in-person instruction to review the set-up and the technology, please contact the Classroom Technology Services team at (520-621-3852).

As a reminder, if you would be interested in being tested for coronavirus infection or antibodies, please sign up online here, or take advantage of the walk-in opportunities. We encourage you to do so!
With thanks,

Liesl