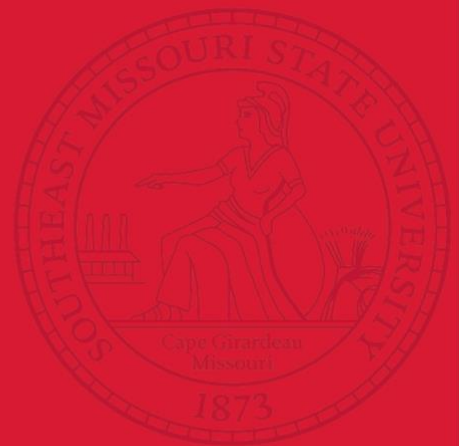


OFFICE OF THE **PRESIDENT**



SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

Hello Redhawks!

It is good to have you back. **We are very excited to have you here** and we are looking forward to a great semester.

This semester will **require personal responsibility from each of us** in ways we have never asked of you before. We know the best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is to follow standard best practices.

Guidance to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19:

To guide you on ways to keep each other safe, we developed a comprehensive **Protect the Nest Campus Return Plan** which was shared with you this summer. If you haven't yet read that plan, I urge you to do so. As we learn more about the best practices to manage COVID-19, this plan will be updated, so please read all updates as they become available.

In addition, we have developed several **informational videos** to share with you **best practices and expectations**, information about **campus services**, and guidance for **hosting student events on and off campus**.

Protect the Nest: <https://vimeo.com/446890981>

Campus Service: <https://vimeo.com/447591160>

Student Involvement: <https://vimeo.com/448558899>

Keeping you and our faculty and staff safe means we must all hold one another accountable. Please **watch the videos** and **adhere to the guidance** included in the Protect the Nest Plan.

Protect the Nest Kits Available:

We are distributing Protect the Nest kits to all students, faculty and staff to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The kits for students are available at the following locations:

- Residence hall students will receive a kit during the move-in process.
- Cape Girardeau campus students can pick-up a kit at the Center for Student Involvement, 204 University Center or the Dobbins River Campus Center Information Desk.
- Students attending the Kennett, Poplar Bluff or Sikeston locations, or the Cape College Center can obtain a kit from the administrative offices at these locations

The Protect the Nest kit includes two cloth face coverings, hand sanitizer and guidance for how to complete a daily symptom check. With everyone's efforts and dedication, we can limit the spread of COVID-19 and help keep our community healthy.

On- and Off-Campus Gatherings:

The college experience involves a degree of socialization, so we understand that this guidance is going to be difficult. At this time, there is no federal, state, or local limit on the number of persons who can gather at one time. To date, the University has not established a maximum gathering size, though many events including Redhawks athletics competitions will not be held this fall; and room capacities on campus have been reduced significantly.

We know that COVID-19 spreads when groups gather. Consequently, **the same guidelines noted in the Protect the Nest Plan apply to off-campus gatherings:**

1. wear a face covering,
2. maintain at least 6' social distance, and

- do not attend a gathering if you are symptomatic. Additionally, never share food or drinks.

Code of Student Conduct:

Students and/or student organizations who intentionally disregard this guidance will be subject to the **conduct process**. To maintain campus safety and operations, we will address these behaviors swiftly when we receive reports of student gatherings that do not follow these guidelines.

Please do your part to maintain the health of our community.

Go Redhawks!

