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Subject: Campus Update
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Good evening Monarchs,

As all of you know, there has been quite a bit of conversation about planning for the Fall. I know that many folks having been using the anticipated health order for the Yellow Tier as a guideline. This seems reasonable given that we recently moved to the Red Tier from Purple, and as long as the numbers stay in the current range, we anticipate moving to the Orange Tier in the next two weeks. It is possible that we will progress more quickly given the vaccine rollout. Nevertheless, planning for the Yellow Tier for the Fall seems prudent. I should also mention that if there are departments that would like to add in-person courses for the Summer with the assumption that we will be in the Orange Tier, they are able to do so. As with the Yellow Tier, the classes would have to be limited to 50 percent of the room capacity.

With this context, we have been creating plans for cleaning and safety. While we will continue to plan and monitor CDC, CDPH, and LACDPH guidance, the following is an update on many items:

- Vaccine availability
 - While we don't have too much control over vaccine distribution, the most important way Monarchs can be safe is to get vaccinated. We understand that the Los Angeles area will receive a large increase in doses over the next month or so.
 - Every employee is now eligible for the vaccine. You can use work time to be vaccinated. Please coordinate with you supervisor if you do, and they can let you know how to complete your absence paperwork.
 - Earlier this week, the Governor announced that all people age 16+ will be eligible beginning April 15th, which is good news for our friends and family members who don't currently have access. This could also be an important reminder to make an appointment as soon as possible with [My Turn](#), [Carbon Health](#), [Walgreens](#), [CVS](#), or another provider prior to the increase in the number of people that will be eligible. Just don't tell my family that I'm encouraging you all to be vaccinated before them. 😊
- Classrooms
 - In addition to the 3 existing Clorox 360 machines we have now, we are purchasing 27 additional electrostatic sprayers, and will keep at least one in each building. They can sanitize rooms in about 5 minutes and be ready for use in about 15 minutes, allowing a few minutes for the spray to evaporate. We will want to take a look at our passing periods to ensure we have adequate time. For smaller, less accessible areas, we requested 5 backpack sprayers and 5 handheld sprayers as well.
 - We also are planning to bring on additional staffing focused exclusively on sanitization. See below.
 - In addition to the staffing and electrostatic sprayers, we are planning to purchase and install an automatic hand sanitization station and sanitizing wipe dispenser in every classroom.
- Labs
 - We need to investigate options for labs more. We understand that some labs cannot be sprayed with Clorox 360 machines, including for example Biology Labs. We will be looking for other options.
 - We also are planning to purchase and install an automatic hand sanitization station and will be providing sanitizing wipes in every lab.

- HVAC Systems
 - Many buildings currently have MERV 13 filters or better, which help trap particles or droplets that can carry viruses and bacteria. All of these filters are currently being replaced. Many buildings also have UV lights in the HVAC systems, or draw fresh air from outside rather than recirculating air.
 - We also are planning to replace all permanent buildings with MERV 13 filters and not use temporary buildings (modular or bungalows) for instruction. Note that most of the remaining bungalows are being removed, including 80 to 85. The only remaining ones will be Admin 1, 2, and 3.
 - Additionally, we are investigating whether or not there would be a benefit of adding UV lights to the HVAC systems. We're not sure if there would be a benefit, but we do have plenty of resources to make the addition if it is beneficial.
- PPE
 - We currently have hundreds of thousands of face masks as well as more than 1,000 bottles of hand sanitizer as part of the California Office of Emergency Services shipment last spring.
 - We are purchasing additional gloves and face shields for anyone who might want them.
- Plexiglass
 - We have purchased some Plexiglass and are planning to purchase more. We are currently looking into which locations could use it. While we haven't decided to open service counters, if they were to reopen they would likely be good places to add plexiglass until the pandemic is over.
- Stanchions
 - Given the layout of some classified staff workstations, we also are investigating purchasing stanchions to ensure that people remain six feet from classified staff work areas.
- Staffing for sanitization
 - We are currently looking into options for substantially increasing staffing on both A shift and B shift who will be responsible for sanitization only. There will certainly be an increase in need for the Fall semester, and until the pandemic is over, and we want to hire additional staffing to meet this need.

In addition to these plans, there were a few other related questions that have been asked:

- If faculty are double masking, are there options for buying sound projection systems?
 - Yes, we are looking into options. I understand that about 30 classrooms have already been upgraded to accommodate wireless microphones. We are looking into other options for other spaces and are happy to purchase anything needed once identified.
- What should can be done if a student refuses to wear a mask?
 - Early in the pandemic, the District issued a [Safety Advisory](#) that provides good guidance.
- What guidance can be provided for instruction with choirs or Music classes with air instruments?
 - While there is some current guidance on this and some possibilities with using Plexiglass, we are looking into this more.
- What happens if the County moves from Yellow to Orange or Red?
 - Generally, there is no difference in the current guidance for Yellow and Orange related to colleges and universities offering classes. However, if the County were to move to the Red Tier, we would need to follow the more restrictive health orders.

We hope that this information is helpful. If you have additional ideas or concerns, please let your dean know so we can build them into our planning process and ensure that Valley meets the highest safety standards.

On a personal note, I received my second dose of the vaccine this morning. It was nice to have received it. I'm looking forward to two weeks from now when the vaccine is in full effect. If you want some additional information about the vaccine, we had a terrific [You Tube Town Hall](#) with Dr. Keith Norris from UCLA. Dr. Norris was incredibly informative. If you have a few minutes, it is definitely worth watching. My thanks to everyone who helped make this happen and especially Dr. Nakamura for helping to facilitate.

Please let me know how I can provide additional support.

Continue to stay safe and be well,

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