



August 28, 2020

Dear Students,

The Quarantine is Lifted!

With great excitement, we are announcing that the COVID-19 test results are in and the quarantine is now lifted! Those students who are currently under quarantine by order of Stoner Health & Wellness Center are to remain in quarantine.

We know this has not been an easy time. And we are proud of how the Heidelberg family has handled the quarantine in these unprecedented times. But now the real work starts. As discussed in the video you received on Sunday, August 23, we are moving to Stage 3 of our reopening process. Stage 1 was testing, Stage 2 was quarantine, and Stage 3 will be navigating this campus and the Tiffin community responsibly every day until Thanksgiving Break so we can all have a great semester and year.

What leads to the greatest spread on college campuses across the country? Close contact related to things like house parties and packing into local establishments. Upperclassmen will tell you once illness starts on campus, it can be extremely difficult to control, thus prevention is our best weapon: mask-wearing, physical distancing, hand washing/sanitizing, general good hygiene, and avoiding risky environments. It's vitally important for you to be honest if / when you are contacted by someone with questions as part of our contact tracing process.

Your responsible decision making starts this weekend. Weekends have not always been a time for the best decision making. This one must be, and so must the next 12 weekends until we get to Thanksgiving Break. You are going to get tired of faculty, staff, and students saying, "Wear your mask," "Did you fill out your self-evaluation including taking your temperature today?" and "Are you physically distancing?" but we aren't going to stop, and that's because we care. And because we all want to hear the Marching Band, go to athletic events, theatre performances, be involved in Greek Life and other campus organizations, and especially be here for classes. This semester must be different -- not bad, just different. We are anticipating a great semester.

Some important items about the reopening:

What are the results of our testing?

We are keeping a dashboard on the Heidelberg website: <https://www.heidelberg.edu/studentlife/health-and-safety/berg-covid-19-dashboard>

As you can see from the dashboard, we had only a few positive cases on campus: six students and one in the “other” category. All of those who tested positive have returned home to quarantine. We will continue to follow guidance from the CDC, our Seneca County health commissioner and Stoner Health & Counseling Center professionals for those individuals’ safe return to campus. But identifying those early and executing our campus plan / protocols have helped us start the semester in the healthiest way possible. We will not disclose who tested positive. We have done the proper contact tracing and have followed all protocols in cooperation with our local health department. Remember, those who tested positive are wonderful, welcomed members of our community. They are Heidelberg Student Princes. They do not deserve any ridicule, shunning, or shame.

What does lifting the quarantine means for classes next week?

This one is simple. Seated classes will start at 8 a.m. Monday, August 31. Make sure you know which of your classes are seated, remote, or hyflex (meaning some days the class is seated and some days it is remote).

What does lifting the quarantine mean for dining on campus?

Dinner this evening will be take-out only from Hoernemann Refectory between the hours of 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. Please enter Hoernemann from the Miller Hall / Willard Hall main entrance and exit to The Heidelberg!, taking an immediate left.

As a part of dinner tonight, you will receive your breakfast for Saturday morning.

Watch for more details in your inbox Saturday about the rest of the weekend and the dining schedule going forward.

What does lifting the quarantine mean for athletics?

Please reach out to your coach. The coaches have been working hard to get ready for this semester. They will be following the NCAA resocialization plan. This is another example of different, not bad, just different.

Is Saurwein Health & Wellness Center open?

Saurwein will open from 2-10 p.m. on Sunday, so stop by for a workout.

Can I pick up packages from the Bookstore?

The Heidelberg Bookstore will be open Sunday from 12 noon-5 p.m. for package pickup only. The register will not be open and no merchandise can be purchased that day. You will need a photo ID to pick up a package.

Can I do things with my friends?

Of course! But please remember we are currently requiring all students to wear masks, physically distance, and keep to groups of 10 or less. Residence hall rooms have limited capacities as well that your RA and/or Hall Director discussed with you last week.

I know how happy you all are to be here, but our work has just begun. It is not easy, but we can do it if we work together, make excellent decisions, and support each other. Our semester is different, yes, but it can still be great if we all do a great job of following the health and safety protocols.

Go Berg!

Chris Abrams
Dean of Student Affairs