



July 2, 2020

Dear Heidelberg Students and Families,

On June 19, 2020, we communicated with you about adjustments to the academic calendar for this upcoming Fall Semester 2020. We believe that our *Responsible Restart: Heidelberg* comprehensive curricular and cocurricular plan to run campus classes from August 24th to November 20th and then finish the last two weeks of classes and exams remotely after Thanksgiving Break will increase everyone's safety and enable us to deliver our educational programming successfully while still facing the coronavirus pandemic.

Today, we want to update you on some additional information regarding the safe return to campus and the activities taking place this summer and into the fall. While our planning is fluid and ongoing, we want to keep our communication lines open and share our plans with you for *Responsible Restart: Heidelberg*. We are sharing some critical prevention policies, procedures, and protocols that we are deploying to keep all of us safe and healthy. In all regards, we continue to follow the directions and guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, the Ohio Department of Health, and the Seneca County Health Commissioner. That is our priority!

We will be asking all faculty, staff, and students to sign the *Heidelberg Pledge of Health & Safety*, stating your understanding of and commitment to abide by all University protocols so that all of us can stay healthy and safe.

As a critical piece to our preparedness, we strongly encourage ALL students to stay at home / shelter in place for 14 days before arriving on campus in August.

A new [webpage](#) has been created on Heidelberg's site to provide details and resources for you and your family as you prepare to arrive on campus to start Fall Semester classes in late August.

We hope the [webpage](#) answers many of your questions about your safe arrival or return to campus. In the meantime, here is a brief summary of information that we think will be helpful.

Responsible Restart: Heidelberg – Personal Protection

Facial Coverings Required: All faculty, staff, students, and visitors must wear a facial covering when indoors, except when you are regularly alone (i.e., an individual office or a residence hall room) or in settings where you can maintain 6 feet of physical distance from others. There may be exceptions to this requirement, which will be managed on a case-by-case basis. It is expected that students, faculty, and staff will have their own facial coverings. If you need a facial covering, we will provide instructions for getting one on campus.

Health Assessments: All visitors to campus, including family members of students, will be asked to complete a brief [Health Self-Evaluation](#) prior to arrival. We expect this important check to be available online for easy access by all students and guests.

Enhanced Cleaning Protocols: The Krammes Service Center facilities team has implemented an enhanced cleaning program with greater cleaning frequency and intensity. This program involves regular cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces and objects as well as the provision of hand sanitizer, wipes and disinfectant spray in public areas across the campus for individual use throughout the day.

Students are encouraged to help keep their own living spaces clean and to be prepared to bring disinfecting wipes, etc. A supply “list” will be issued during New Student Orientation.

Responsible Restart: Heidelberg – Academics

Classroom Instruction: As previously announced, classes will be delivered this fall via a variety of modalities, including face-to-face, online, and a combination thereof. Academic departments and instructors, with guidance from the Owen Center for Teaching and Learning, Academic Affairs and Human Resources, will be determining the best modality for each course. We are complying with the *Responsible Restart Ohio: Higher Education Operating Standards and Recommended Best Practices* document distributed by Governor DeWine's office.

Classrooms: For in-person classes, we are currently assessing classroom capacity so that we can incorporate safety and prevention protocols. Maximum headcounts for all classrooms and learning spaces will be reduced. This assessment process will continue through the summer in preparation for the start of classes on August 24.

Academic Calendar: For a refresher, check the dates for the Fall Semester academic calendar [here](#).

New Student Orientation: *Destination: Heidelberg*, our new student orientation program, will be held on July 20, 24, 25, 27, 31, and August 3. The sessions have been redesigned to be delivered remotely. We are excited to share details and instructions for the virtual *Destination: Heidelberg* with our incoming students and families via email early next week.

Responsible Restart: Heidelberg – Residence Life and Housing

Housing assignments for new students will be made the week of July 6th and then communicated shortly thereafter. The Residence Life and Housing team is finalizing plans for safe move-in procedures, including staggered and assigned check-in times beginning in mid-August. To reduce large gatherings within residence halls, common spaces such as lounges are being de-densified and / or locked down wherever possible. At the same time, we are excited that the new Main Street Town Homes will open in August and the historic renovation of France Hall will be finished in November. As you pack for your move-in, it is recommended that you limit your belongings and bring only essential items.

Responsible Restart: Heidelberg – Campus Dining

Working in close collaboration with our Parkhurst Dining food service partner, Hoernemann Refectory will be open for dine-in meals with a reduced capacity and safety protocols in place. Additionally, exciting new take-out options will be available beginning this fall. We expect to offer easy access online ordering for student take-out. The Heidelberg! and the Berg Bistro 1850 will reopen with new hours to be announced soon.

Responsible Restart: Heidelberg – Athletics

Heidelberg University has been working very closely with the Ohio Athletic Conference and the NCAA on the safe and healthy return of Athletics to all of our OAC campuses. As soon as we have our plan finalized, we will communicate with our student-athletes and the campus community about what you can expect from Heidelberg Athletics this fall. Student-athletes should watch for messages from coaches with important information about their seasons.

Responsible Restart: Heidelberg – Health and Mental Health Resources

The staff of Stoner Health & Counseling Center is ready to serve students' health and mental health needs. This includes providing Telehealth Counseling services to students. All students can reach out to the health center by calling (419) 448-2041 at any time.

As the Fall Semester approaches, we will continue to communicate with you about our efforts to reduce the health risk for everyone on campus when we return to life at Heidelberg University. Again, this information is available in detail on the [website](#). Information will be updated as it becomes available.

We hope that you are as excited as we are about the upcoming semester and that this initial information is helpful as we continue with our preparations in these extraordinary times. We look forward to seeing you very soon as we reawaken and rejuvenate our beautiful campus with all of you!

Sincerely,

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