



# ERSKINE COLLEGE RETURN-TO-CAMPUS PLAN

## FALL SEMESTER 2020

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**We are looking forward to your return to the campus next month, and we have been preparing for the Fall 2020 semester throughout the spring and early summer. Erskine administrators and faculty are working closely with public health officials who are advising us on protocols that will enable us to reopen our campus safely.**

**We have identified three main components for a safe and successful reopening — PLAN, CARE, AND RESPOND — and have created guidelines for each component.**

## PLAN

### Preparation Prior to Arrival on Campus

Our primary aim is the safety of students, faculty, and staff. We are asking each individual to take personal responsibility for monitoring his or her personal health and to consider the safety of the entire Erskine community. The following guidelines, based on recommendations from our medical task force, will form the basis for our reopening in August:

- You are not required to be tested for COVID-19 before coming to campus. However, we encourage all students who are experiencing symptoms of the virus to be tested two weeks prior to arrival on campus. If the test is positive for COVID-19, the student is expected to self-quarantine for the required 10-14 days before returning to campus. A student who has tested positive and has self-quarantined should provide documentation of a negative COVID-19 test before coming to campus.
- Individuals coming from highly infected states or cities should strongly consider testing before returning to Erskine.
- All students, faculty, and staff are required to bring personal washable masks or face coverings to campus for use when and where required.
- Students should bring hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes for use in common areas. Aramark cleaning services will perform extra deep cleaning of the public areas daily, but use of personal supplies will supplement that work.
- We will have a limited supply of masks and cleaning supplies for sale in the bookstore.
- All students will be required to read and sign a waiver regarding the risk of infection incurred in a residential campus setting.

## Move-In Procedures

Move-in day is a special time for you and your families. Remember that with so many people in close proximity, physical distancing (also known as social distancing) and use of masks will be expected. In order to make move-in day as safe as possible, the following procedures and guidelines have been developed:

- Move-in day for freshmen is scheduled over a two-day period, August 14-15.
- To avoid overcrowding, students will be assigned a specific day and time to move into the residence halls. Please adhere strictly to these scheduled times.
- Each student is asked to bring only two guests to assist with the move-in.
- Face coverings are required on move-in day for both students and guests.
- A temperature check (prior to entering residence halls) is required for all individuals (students and guests) on move-in day.
- This year, for safety reasons, we will not be able to provide Erskine volunteer assistance for the move-in process.
- Erskine staff and student leaders will direct the move-in process, and they will be required to wear face masks.

## CARE (Community, Academics, Residence Life, Events)

### Community

#### *Maintaining a Healthy Campus Environment*

We must work together to maintain a healthy environment for everyone. Living in community suggests that each of us thinks of others and thus contributes to the health and safety of all.

- Increased cleaning and disinfection will be implemented by Aramark Services.
- The use of shared objects (e.g., lab equipment, computer equipment, desks) will be limited whenever possible. Equipment will be cleaned before and after use.
- Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to keep personal items (e.g., cell phones, other electronics) and personal work and living spaces clean.
- Sharing of electronic devices, books, pens, and other learning aids should be avoided.
- We have added more hand sanitizing stations throughout the campus. Buildings will have a visible hand sanitizing station on each floor and near every entrance and exit.
- Campus offices will practice physical distancing and have hand sanitizer available.
- A daily temperature check, administered by Athletic Training personnel or Residence Life staff, is required for each student in order to continue living in residence halls, participating in academic classes, and attending athletic practices and games.
- Students, faculty, and staff are expected to supply their own washable masks or face coverings, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant wipes.
- All washable fabric masks and face coverings must be properly cleaned. CDC instructions for cleaning will be provided.

## Academics

### *Classroom Policies and Procedures*

We are committed to making the classroom experience as normal, instructionally effective, and medically safe as possible. Medical task force recommendations and classroom policies and procedures developed by academic administration and faculty representatives are reflected in the following:

- The Fall 2020 Academic Calendar has been altered. Classroom instruction will begin Wednesday, August 19, rather than August 24. Fall Break has been eliminated and in-person classroom instruction ends Tuesday, Nov. 24 (two days before Thanksgiving). Students will complete the semester, review week, and final exams online.
- We will match classroom sizes with course enrollment to aid in physical distancing.
- Faculty members may require face coverings to be worn in their classrooms. Students are expected to comply with these faculty requests.
- A limited number of cleaning wipes and masks will be available in classrooms.

## Residence Life

### *Residence Hall Guidelines and Procedures*

Residence life at Erskine is an important part of the liberal arts college experience. Our intention is to continue to enhance our community life in creative ways during this time. The Office of Residence Life, in concert with the medical task force, provides the following guidelines for residence life:

- Assigned living spaces will maximize physical distancing to enhance students' safety.
- Aramark Facilities Services will clean and sanitize public areas multiple times daily. Cleaning products will be available for use by students in these areas.
- Student housing areas with private or semi-private bathrooms or kitchens will be provided with supplies and instructions on the cleaning needed for safety.
- The number of students in common areas will be limited to comply with social distancing recommendations.
- Facilities will clean community bathrooms multiple times daily. Students will be encouraged to wipe down sinks, shower heads, and other surfaces before and after use (cleaning supplies will be available).
- Face coverings should be worn in common areas such as lobbies, hallways, kitchens, and bathrooms.
- Educational signage will be placed throughout the residence halls encouraging physical distancing and healthy hygiene, such as handwashing, to comply with CDC guidelines.
- Room furniture will be arranged to allow for physical distancing. Physical distancing guidelines may limit the ways in which rooms can be organized.
- As a safety measure, we will limit students' visits to campus residence halls and apartments in which they do not live.
- Non-student guests will be allowed in the residence halls only after approval by the Resident Director and must have a temperature check administered and wear a face mask prior to entering the building.
- Signage will show (one-way) access to hallways and stairwells to encourage physical distancing.

## *Dining Services*

Moffatt Dining Hall is a central location on campus where the Erskine community congregates several times a day. It is a place to socialize and build community. While our desire is for this atmosphere to continue, we will need to make adjustments to our normal dining hall routines. The administration and Aramark Food Services personnel together have determined the best way to meet the daily needs of our students, faculty, and staff safely. The following guidelines will help us to do this:

- The number of people allowed in Moffatt and other food service areas has been reduced to 50% capacity to comply with CDC and SCDHEC guidelines. Numbers will be monitored to avoid exceeding 50% capacity.
- Faculty and staff may be asked to use the take-out option in order to provide enough seating for the student body.
- Students will be expected to maintain physical distancing.
- There will be no self-serve lines. Aramark personnel will serve our food in all lines.
- Tables and chairs will be arranged for appropriate physical distancing.
- Take-out options will be available. This will help avoid overcrowding in the dining hall.
- Food service for non-Erskine individuals will be available only via the take-out option.

## **Events**

### *Events and Activities*

Large gatherings and social activities are important to our community life. Unfortunately, these large gatherings also pose the threat of viral spread. In an effort to retain the critical events that are an important part of Erskine's identity, we are taking these steps:

- Some nonessential activities may be suspended.
- If an event is deemed essential, we will design it to maximize safety for all involved.
- We will work with student organizations to help them plan meetings and organize events in an orderly and safe manner.
- Large in-person events increase safety risks, so some of these will be suspended. Some may also be reconfigured for a virtual, online, or social media venue.
- Convocation will be scheduled for evening sessions only with a limited number of students who will sign up to participate and receive their required convo credit.
- In order to provide a safer environment for chapel, which will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, students will be assigned either Tuesdays or Thursdays to meet their attendance requirement.

# RESPOND

## Management of Suspected or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

While multiple precautions will be implemented to provide a safe and healthy environment, it is certainly possible that someone at Erskine will test positive for COVID-19. These guidelines will inform our actions if we have suspected or actual cases of COVID-19 on campus.

- A student with symptoms of COVID-19 will see a doctor or nurse at Due West Family Medicine (DWFM). DWFM will offer COVID-19 testing, with results expected within 24 hours.
- DWFM will offer regular hours of availability to Erskine students, as they have previously done.
- If a student has a high temperature when the daily temperature check is given, he or she will be sent to DWFM. If medical personnel are not immediately available, the student will self-quarantine until he or she can be seen. The student patient must follow all instructions given by medical personnel.
- If a student tests positive for COVID-19, he or she will be expected to return home if at all possible. Erskine will work with students and families who have extenuating circumstances. The roommate of the student being tested will be quarantined in a designated space on campus until test results are obtained and then for 14 days if the test is positive. (Roommates of students in apartments, townhouses, or suites will quarantine in that space.)
- If the student who tested positive is unable to return home, he or she will be placed in isolation. Male and female beds have been identified for this purpose.
- During the quarantine period, food will be delivered from Moffatt Dining Hall. The person delivering the food will be expected to wear a face mask and gloves and will leave the food outside the student's door.
- A student who requires quarantine due to a positive COVID-19 test result must contact his or her professors to arrange an academic plan during quarantine. The academic office will assist the student in this process.

# THANK YOU!

**We look forward to your presence on campus, in the classroom, and on the athletic fields and courts beginning in August. May God be our shepherd and guide as we experience this Fall 2020 semester together.**