



ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

July 9, 2020

Dear Students,

I hope this message finds you and your family safe and healthy. I am reaching out to you today with important information about the 2020-21 academic year and more specifically, the fall term starting on August 31. These are challenging times, but be assured that Rocky Mountain College is prepared for and eagerly anticipating your return to campus.

We are committed to the safety and welfare of our students, faculty and staff. We will provide the safest environment possible and have spent the past several months planning and preparing for your return to campus.

First, a reminder of our modified calendar and some important dates:

August 28: Residence Hall Move-in, New Students

August 30: Residence Hall Move-in, Returning Students

August 29 & 30: New Student Orientation

August 31: Classes Begin

November 25: Last day of classes

November 30-December 7: Final Examinations (delivered on-line)

**Academic Preparations:**

Your faculty and the College are committed to ensuring that your educational journey is disrupted as little as possible. An overwhelming majority of faculty are planning to teach in the traditional face-to-face format. However, due to capacity restrictions, some courses will be offered in a hybrid format which will include an online component. Due to health considerations, a relatively small number of faculty members are more comfortable teaching courses remotely, and these faculty will offer their courses using distance and online modalities. Rest assured that these courses will be committed to RMC's standards for personal attention and quality. I am confident that all courses, regardless of format, will maintain high academic rigor, and faculty will continue to have high expectations.

As the term begins we will be implementing a variety of procedures and protocols designed to create the safest possible environment. Here are a few examples of what you can anticipate:

**Face Masks:** Face masks are required in all RMC buildings and classrooms. The only exception to this policy is for students in the privacy of their residence hall rooms. Face masks are the first line of defense in protecting the community from the virus. One person with COVID can easily expose dozens of others, putting their health and livelihoods in jeopardy. Masks help to mitigate that risk and it is imperative that we all do our part to protect the College community.

**Social Distancing:** Offices and public spaces are being modified to provide for adequate social distancing. Entrances and exits in academic buildings are being designated to reduce student contact between classes. Additionally, whenever possible, classrooms will not be scheduled “back to back,” again with the goal of minimizing student contact. Finally, we have evaluated classroom spaces across campus, created several new instructional spaces and will be reducing classroom density wherever practicable.

**Building Access:** In order to limit the possible spread of viral infections, as well as to more effectively disinfect and clean surfaces inside campus facilities, access to buildings on campus will be restricted to those approved (by building). All buildings will remain locked to “card access only.” All students will need to use their Rocky ID cards to access campus facilities.

**Groups and Gatherings:** In general, on-campus gatherings will be limited in size to allow for appropriate social distancing. Lounges and shared spaces will have posted maximum occupancy limits. As noted previously, face masks are to be worn in all campus buildings.

**Custodial Services:** The College has increased cleaning and disinfecting processes in several areas, including classrooms. Particular focus is being placed on disinfecting touch points (door handles, light switches, etc.) in common spaces around campus, including residence halls. This process will continue throughout the semester. Regular deep cleaning of restrooms in common areas and the use of electrostatic disinfectant spray to fog these areas has been initiated. This process will continue in all restrooms around the campus. Deep cleaning of all classrooms will be conducted twice per 24-hour period including the use of electrostatic disinfectant spray. Additional personnel and resources have been committed to our cleaning protocols.

**Classroom Sanitizing and Disinfecting:** Members of the RMC community are being asked to assist in disinfecting frequently used spaces. Students have an important role in maintaining a safe environment for study. Prior to the start of each class, students will be expected to wipe down all exposed surfaces which you physically touch, utilizing a disinfectant cleaning product provided by the College. Please wipe down physically contacted items, such as desk/table tops, chairs, keyboards, and other equipment in your workspace.

**Wellness Checks:** In an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on the Rocky Mountain College campus, it is our goal to quickly detect any case which might arrive on campus and promptly isolate those who have been exposed. Wellness checks will be conducted through a series of questions regarding signs and symptoms of COVID-19. A fever is one of the symptoms specifically linked to COVID-19 and RMC will have testing stations located around campus for students, staff, faculty, and visitors to undergo voluntary temperature testing.

**Institutional Action for a Confirmed Case of COVID-19:** In preparation for a positive Covid-19 diagnosis on campus, the College has developed a detailed protocol for isolation, student support, contact tracing, disinfecting/sanitizing and campus wide communication. The College will work closely with local public health officials to ensure the impacted individual(s) are properly treated and that the campus environment remains safe.

As our start date approaches and the school year evolves, we will all need to remain flexible and open to change. In addition to your responsibilities as a student, you have an important role to play in the safety of our community. In the coming weeks you'll be receiving additional information and safety protocols for New Student Orientation, Residence Life, housing assignments and Check-in Protocols, dining services, and athletics to name a few. Please give them thorough consideration before you arrive on campus in August.

Please safely enjoy these final weeks of summer, we are excited to welcome you back to campus and remain grateful that you have placed your trust in us.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bob Wilmouth  
President