

July 17, 2020

## **Simpson University Parent and Student Update - Reopening Plan**

Dear Simpson University students and parents:

As we continue to work toward a safe reopening in the fall, here are answers to some questions you have asked recently regarding the university's plans and the pandemic situation. You can find additional information at [simpsonu.edu/coronavirus](http://simpsonu.edu/coronavirus).

### **COVID Testing Prior to Arrival**

- With the increase in COVID-19 cases and the need to safely transition students to campus this fall, **we are now requiring all students to submit negative COVID test results.** Results may be emailed to [wellness@simpsonu.edu](mailto:wellness@simpsonu.edu).
- The test must be completed within 30 days of the start of term (between Aug. 7 and Sept. 7, 2020). We prefer the results to be emailed before arrival, but we will accept a written report upon arrival.
- Here is a link to set up an appointment for COVID testing locally:  
<https://lhi.care/covidtesting>

### **Arrival Without a Test Report**

- If a student arrives without having been tested, a test will be administered on campus immediately upon arrival, and the student will be charged \$300. This charge will cover the test and two to three nights in a local hotel, during which time the student's participation will be limited for on-campus activities. This helps ensure the safety of students, faculty, and staff on campus and our continuity of operation. After the university has received a negative test result from the student, the student will be allowed to come on campus.

### **COVID Testing After Arrival**

- In addition to requiring a COVID test prior to arrival, we also plan to have all students tested about 30 days into the semester (end of September). Simpson University is working with public health to minimize or remove the cost of this test. Many students will be tested as part of the program they associate with (e.g. nursing, athletics, etc.). Simpson is working with local health officials to ensure all students are provided access

to testing. More information about testing after arrival will be provided when details are available.

### **Refunds in Case of Campus Closure**

- Simpson University's existing refund policy is very generous. Room and board refunds will be made for up to 8 weeks into the semester. The refund amount is calculated based on how far the semester progressed before the campus transition was required [[link to refund policy](#)]. If a COVID-19 incident forces a transition to online-only education after 8 weeks into the semester, the university will endeavor to access state and federal funding sources that might be offered for additional student relief.
- In the event SU is transitioned to online education, tuition will not be refunded or discounted as the university will continue to provide education in a remote format, as per federal requirements.

### **First 14 Days of Semester -- Super Safe Period**

- All students will undergo a "super safe" period from their arrival on campus until Sept. 21 (14 days after the start of classes), during which time they will limit off-campus travel to essential functions; wear facemasks; practice frequent hand-washing and physical distancing; get temperature checks at the dining center, chapel and athletic practice sites; and receive meals on a take-out basis and dine outside on the patio.
- If a student shows symptoms of COVID, they will be required to return to their homes for quarantine and proper care. We are working with local hotels to provide options for those that are not able to return home.
- Following this "super safe" period, each residence hall suite will be considered a family unit, and distance and face coverings will not be required of those living in the unit during the times that they are in the suite.

### **COVID-19 Symptoms**

- If a student exhibits a fever of 100.4 or above and one of the following symptoms, they will be sent home, or if there is no way to travel home, they may be required to remain in their residence hall room or quarantined at another location:
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Chills
  - Repeated shaking with chills
  - Muscle pain

- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

### **Classroom Instruction -- HyFlex Method**

- While classes will be offered face to face when possible, we have made arrangements that allow classes to be video transmitted and recorded so that a student can see the class from either a remote location, such as their residence hall or library, either during “real” class time or any time after the class has finished. This allows the classroom experience to be safe with physical distancing and without overcrowding. It also allows any student with a compromised immune system to continue their studies at Simpson remotely. Each classroom will have a specific site protection plan that includes occupancy limits that will be observed for each class.

### **Essential Programs**

- The state of California has deemed nursing students as 'essential' to support the essential nursing workforce throughout the state. The California Board of Registered Nursing has received communication of our university plans for on-ground classes and lab experiences using a HyFlex model to support the transition to remote learning if needed.; it will be operational this fall. If the school is required to go fully online, the Board of Registered Nursing and Simpson University have approved plans for the delivery of all courses and labs.
- Other majors and programs may be considered essential and named at a later date.

### **Residential Move-In**

- Both returning and new students will be given staggered arrival times by Student Development for residential move-in to allow for physical distancing. Students will receive notice from Residence Life early and often to help students plan.
- Only one to two guests will be permitted to accompany each student.

### **New Student Orientation**

- New Student Orientation remains scheduled on campus, starting Friday, Sept. 4. Only a maximum of two guests will be permitted to accompany each student.
- Orientation opportunities may be available for students and families online prior to NSO Weekend. New students should check with their admissions counselor.

- All parents and guests are expected to wear face coverings and follow physical distancing guidelines.
- Campus staff will be available in their offices and at the Grant Center (gym) to provide additional information to all parents and students.
- All new athletes must report to all scheduled events for New Student Orientation.

### **Athletics**

- Soccer and volleyball players are scheduled to arrive Aug. 7-8 (soccer) and 10-11 (volleyball). Please check with coaches for exact times.
- Athletes must provide negative COVID-19 test results as described above and will be tested again as per NAIA guidelines during practices and before competition begins.

### **International Students**

- Simpson University is informing its international students that travel restrictions are in effect, and circuitous travel arrangements may be necessary to get to Redding. Those students are asked to please plan ahead to make their own arrangements.
- All international student-athletes, except volleyball and soccer players, are to report on Sept. 5 or 6, along with other returning students, with their negative test results as described above.
- The usual I-20 visa procedures still apply. Contact Allegra Weaver (returning students) and/or Michelle Mbok (new students) for assistance to update your I-20s. As of July 16, 2020, returning students may travel on their I-20's signed for travel from the Spring 2020 semester. I-20's will be updated at the beginning of the semester at International Student Orientation.
- Students who cannot return to the U.S. due to travel restrictions may take online classes through their institution (this is a temporary measure), providing that these classes are program-applicable. If the institution is not fully-online, all classes will likely not be offered in online format for students studying from their home country. Students in this situation may be below full-time enrollment and still be compliant with F- visa requirements (this is a temporary measure).
- Students returning to campus in the fall are expected to be at full-time status.
- Allegra Weaver, [aweaver@simpsonu.edu](mailto:aweaver@simpsonu.edu), 530 226 4939, [allegraweaver.youcanbook.me](http://allegraweaver.youcanbook.me)
- Michelle Mbok, [mmbok@simpsonu.edu](mailto:mmbok@simpsonu.edu) 530 226 4610