November 13, 2020

Dear Students,

Many of you have likely already seen the university announcement that we have returned to the Red Stage from the Orange Stage in the university’s Physical Distancing Framework. I’ve included the message in full below.

Please note that this means eating and drinking without a mask on is no longer permitted in the law school, and that law library study rooms are again limited to use by only one person at a time. I am so sorry for these inconveniences!

As a reminder, physical distancing must be maintained at all times on campus, including outdoors whenever possible. If it is not possible to keep 6 feet apart outdoors, wear your mask. Masks are always required indoors. Avoid gatherings. Don’t come to school if you feel sick or believe you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. Complete your daily symptom tracker. The safety of our community depends on every individual following these precautions!

Contact me with questions or concerns.

“Dear Faculty, Staff, Students, and Families,

We write regarding the unfortunate uptick in positive COVID-19 cases and the number of students in quarantine, which we have continued to witness in recent days. These developments, coupled with the increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in the greater Richmond community, compel us to return to the Red Stage of the Physical Distancing Framework effective today.

We will remain in the Red Stage until at least Sunday, Nov. 22. Among other things, our Red Stage protocols limit off-campus outings to essential activities such as health appointments or employment — subject to mask-wearing and appropriate physical distancing. This is especially important since we have reason to believe that most of the increases in positive cases are associated with social gatherings off campus. The results of our most recent prevalence testing provide some encouraging news. This week there were 368 students tested with only one positive case, while 96 faculty and staff were tested with no positive cases. Our contact tracing suggests that the increase we are seeing in quarantine rates is because two cases had a significantly higher number of close contacts than is the norm. The COVID-19 Dashboard will be updated this afternoon for your reference.

Please note that the Theater Department’s performance of Richard III tonight and tomorrow night, performed outdoors at the Greek theater (with masks and physical distancing required by viewers), will occur as scheduled.

We regret that the shift to Red Stage is necessary at this time but we must proceed cautiously to protect the health of our campus community through the end of the residential portion of our semester and beyond.

Take good care,
David Hale
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

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