

RBC Community,

We have a number of updates for you regarding the Safe and Secure Plan for the remainder of the spring semester, and also a glimpse at preliminary plans for the summer and fall semester.

COVID cases have dropped markedly over the past several weeks and distribution of Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson and Johnson vaccines have significantly increased. As of today, in Virginia, almost 33% of the population has received one dose and over 18% are fully vaccinated. Even with this optimism, there is still concern of a 4th wave of infection, and we are beginning to see an upward trending of the positivity rate in Virginia.

In consideration of this data, and in an effort to remain in compliance with the Governor's Executive Orders as well as CDC and VDH guidelines, the COVID Emergency Management Team adopted the following recommendations for the Safe and Secure Plan:

Spring 2021 – Remain Diligent

Acknowledging the optimistic outlook, yet realizing existing and potential COVID concerns, the COVID Emergency Management Team adopted recommendations to continue to follow the Safe and Secure Plan through the end of the semester. All existing policies and procedures will continue through commencement. Your hard work and continued commitment to keeping this community healthy are paying off. Adherence to the face covering policy, daily attestation, social distancing standards and de-densification practices will remain in effect. Reliance on the good habits and norms we have established over the past year is what will get us safely through the semester.

- Remember to report COVID-19 symptoms, close contact incidents, or positive test results to Student Success or Human Resources.
- Commencement will be held virtually on May 20th. Specific requirements can be found [here](#).

Summer 2021 – Continues to Be Different

RBC staff have worked tirelessly to create and support an environment responsive to the public health demands of the COVID pandemic. Employees across campus have supported planning and mitigation efforts, case management, quarantine, isolation, testing and vaccine coordination. These staff members will utilize the summer months to refresh themselves, and our facilities, and to plan for a normal return for the fall '21 semester.

- Courses will be fully remote with the exception of a small number of in-person programs that do not require on-campus housing.
- Summer camps will be limited to day camps only. The use of housing facilities will be restricted.
- New student orientation will be offered on four different dates in July and August, with both virtual and in person sessions. Students will have multiple opportunities to complete business transactions on campus at scheduled times throughout the summer.

Fall 2021 – Return to Normal

After a year in which the COVID pandemic has disrupted nearly everything about the RBC experience, we are eager to get back to living, learning, and working together on campus. We plan to return to something resembling normal in the fall.

Plans to return to normal are based on the expectation that vaccines will be widely available by the beginning of the fall term and that coronavirus spread is contained. In the event that the trajectory of the pandemic worsens, it may be necessary for us to revisit some of these decisions. Additionally, there may be a continuing need for some level of public health precautions, but we are optimistic that precautions will be much less restrictive than the protocols that we have employed over the course of the past year.

- Return to normal academic and student success operations, to include:
 - In-class instruction
 - De-densification efforts returned to normal, as practical and allowed
 - Reduce restrictions on gatherings and special events
 - Return clubs and intramural activities
 - Allow travel for scholarly, athletic and related endeavors
 - Continue to expand the RBC Online program
- Resume Statesman Athletics to allow for recruitment, training and competitions. [Statesman Athletics](#) will include:
 - Men's athletic programs
 - Baseball (new)
 - Basketball
 - Soccer
 - Women's athletic program
 - Volleyball
 - Softball
 - Soccer
- Expansion of Housing Program
 - Pivot from low density, all-single room assignments to 6 students per suite.
 - Provide students with two housing options
 - Standard rate single rooms
 - Lower cost double rooms
 - Resume shuttle services
 - Provide VCU tele-med health services to all RBC students
- Continue to provide enhanced cleaning services
 - Continue to provide hand sanitizers at entrances to all academic, residential and public-use facilities

The RBC community's response to the pandemic has produced many innovations in how we conduct the College's business, from teaching to student support services to administrative operations. Individuals across campus are working to adopt technology-supported practices that could continue to benefit the College, our workforce, and our students going forward. We will provide additional updates as that process continues, including more guidance for managers and employees about returning to work safely, and the future of work at RBC post-pandemic.

This good news would not be possible without students, faculty, staff, and, indeed, all members of the RBC family who have overcome the challenges of the past year with resilience, grace and ingenuity. We are not quite out of the woods yet, but we have finally reached a point where we can envision a return to much more normal conditions, including in-person teaching, learning and working.

Thanks, and please continue to stay Safe and Secure!
Jeff