

Dear Yotes,

We are writing to provide an update on the College's COVID-19 [Fall Re-opening Plan](#). It has been inspiring to witness our community's commitment to the [YotePact](#), and the results of our collective efforts demonstrate the effectiveness of steps taken. Wearing masks, maintaining physical distance, washing hands, and other actions to increase community safety are working, and they must be sustained over the course of the semester.

The Plan developed over the summer outlined a phased approach allowing for gradual return to in-person instruction and co-curricular activities. The College opened three weeks ago in Phase 2, with a majority of classes taught exclusively online in a distance-learning format. Residence halls were open for students who wished to live on campus, but the majority of co-curricular activities, like classes, took place online.

In consultation with medical staff and College leadership, we have reviewed the status of the campus at this point in time, as well as statewide community spread. Though we have a few students quarantining on campus due to potential exposure, we don't currently have anyone in isolation on campus, and we feel confident the spread from this recent exposure is contained. Statewide numbers have also been steadily decreasing, and are now 90% lower than the highs of July and August. Based on these factors, and our campus community compliance with the YotePact, **we are pleased to announce that a transition to Phase 3 will begin on Wednesday, September 9. This means:**

- While all courses currently meeting online will continue to take place online, some classes may begin offering in-person meeting opportunities as well.
- Some opportunities will become available for in-person co-curricular activities, such as labs, field work, library and gym access, club meetings, residence hall gatherings, art/theatre/music rehearsals, and athletic conditioning and practices.
- In-person classes and activities will be permitted only when participants are able to adhere to appropriate safety requirements, and the College will be limiting the size of these in-person events to no more than 50 people until further notice.
- Process decisions about specific classes and activities will be made on a case-by-case basis, and communicated to you by your professors, coaches, administrators, ASCI, and other campus leaders responsible for particular areas, so look for updates in coming days.
- No in-person meetings will be required of any student, regardless of on-campus or off-campus residency. Online offerings will remain in place for those not able to return to campus or who wish to avoid in-person meetings for any reason.
- Campus dining will continue to be grab-and-go, and while the weather holds, no in-person dining will be allowed in Simplot and McCain cafeterias.
- College-sponsored travel remains restricted until Phase 4.
- Visitors to campus should continue to be discouraged due to the risk of outside exposure. Exceptions can be made in limited cases, such as prospective students and family members, etc.

Our community has achieved a successful opening to the Fall term due to active compliance with the safety measures outlined in the YotePact. While we will be opening some new opportunities in this phase, it is essential that we continue to wear masks, maintain physical distance, wash our hands and clean surfaces regularly and do things outdoors where possible. Should conditions worsen, there is the

option that the College could move back to Phase 2. Let's all do our part to make sure we do not have to go backwards in our phased re-opening. Thanks for helping us move to this next phase and for your part in keeping our campus safe.

Best Regards and Go Yotes!

Paul Bennion and David Douglass