

Dear Campus Community,

Earlier this week, the College posted an overview of its [re-opening plan for the Fall 2020 semester](#), so that students, families, faculty, staff, alumni, and other interested parties could see the framework of the changes that would be occurring and mandated for what an in-person, residential campus will look like in the COVID-19 environment. This framework was presented with many details and precautions still being finalized as we work through various elements of re-entry and safety.

While our stated goal is to have in-person classes in the fall semester to support the best academic interests of our students, please know that we have consistently said that the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff is our number one priority. Thus, if the health data does not support in-person classes, we are fully prepared to pivot to online or hybrid classes. In our planning, we are consulting with the best health experts in the community and doing our best to have the safest measures in place to serve our entire campus community, while at the same time, preparing pivot points throughout to shift to a hybrid or fully online-delivery mode if need be.

We have monitored cases on campus and off (in the Treasure Valley and beyond) from the start, taken biomedical advice from early March through the present, organized six task forces to review issues and plan forward virtually all functions on campus, and remain poised to respond in real-time to developments as they unfold. Our plan to return to residential, in-person instruction remains contingent on unfolding developments, and it is entirely possible that The College of Idaho will be obliged to open a hybrid model or online-only this fall. The deadline for making that call grows near but has not yet arrived. The success or failure of our aggressive response to the cases on campus, and the full adherence to the wearing of masks and practicing physical distance by the campus community, will be an important part of that determination.

Doug & Jim

Co-Presidents