
Subject: Royal Return 2020: Queens' Blueprint for a Safe and Successful Reopening

Date: Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 10:00:20 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: President Lugo

To: All-faculty-staff, AllStudents

Dear Queens Community,

In May, I reported our goal for a safe and successful re-opening of campus for the fall semester. We followed that in June with an update to the fall undergraduate calendar and a residency plan to reduce density.

Today, I share with you the details of our plan for a [Royal Return](#): Queens' blueprint for a healthy and successful reopening of campus. The plan was developed by Queens' Re-opening Task Force, in partnership with medical professionals at Novant Health. You will note that the plan prioritizes the health and safety of our community while facilitating a safe return to campus-based interactions in pursuit of our educational and co-curricular mission. The basis of this plan is the belief that we can open safely and, importantly, stay open if we ALL collectively commit to behavioral changes – like distancing, wearing face masks, monitoring our daily personal health symptoms – and lean on our motto, not to be served but to serve, which calls on each of us to act in the best interest of our community.

Our [Royal Return website](#) includes important new requirements and planning concerning revising classroom, common area, and dining spaces to reduce congestion; universal use of face masks; initial and weekly diagnostic testing; and daily monitoring of symptoms for all students, faculty, and staff. I strongly encourage you to [review the website in its entirety](#) as you plan your return to campus. Here are some notable points:

- First, as mentioned, this plan was developed with the counsel of our re-opening partner, **Novant Health**. Leading experts at Novant Health have provided professional guidance to our Royal Return plan and will provide ongoing medical services, consulting, training, and advice for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To demonstrate our commitment to keep ourselves and each other healthy, all students and employees will sign a **community covenant**. This is a promise to adhere to expectations prior to arrival, while on campus, and ongoing COVID mitigation strategies. It will ask for everyone's commitment to universal use of face masks, daily symptom checks, health trainings, pre-arrival testing; and to take part in ongoing COVID-19 mitigation measures like random testing and contact tracing.
- **Testing:** Students and employees need to get tested for COVID-19 seven to 14 days before returning to campus and are encouraged to shelter in place between the time of their test and returning to campus. There will also be weekly random survey testing of students, faculty, and staff to monitor for the presence of COVID-19 on campus.
- Another central piece of our partnership with Novant will provide an **online daily symptom checker**. Students, faculty, and staff will log in and be guided through a brief daily questionnaire, which will then cue them if they are clear to be on campus.

- Everyone coming to campus – students and employees alike – will be provided **training** on campus protocol and our COVID-19 mitigation strategies. More information is forthcoming.
- Queens will implement **universal use of face masks**. All students, faculty, staff, and guests will wear face masks when they are not in private offices and dorm rooms.
- Everyone will also be expected to follow **smart hygiene** practices and practice **physical distancing** - staying six feet apart and avoiding large groups.
- Our commitment to academic excellence has not changed, and we are developing course selections with flexibility in mind – in-person or hybrid when occupancy and physical distancing guidelines can be achieved, or online if they cannot. All academic support services will be available, both online and in-person where physical distancing protocols can be kept.
- All campus areas, including residence halls, dining, facilities, and classrooms, will be operating under reduced density and physical distancing guidelines, and will receive rigorous, frequent cleaning.

As we prepare for the fall, it is important to note the rising number of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations in the United States, including North Carolina. This pandemic and our national response have created constantly and rapidly changing circumstances. We will continue to closely watch the situation and **will make any adjustments that our public health agencies require or that we consider necessary to keep our community safe.**

As the circumstances are fluid, our plan must be agile. As a result, we will continue to add details to [this website](#) throughout the summer and let you know by email about significant changes. Please check back often and stay informed about the critical role each of us will play in creating a safe and successful academic year.

We expect that you may have questions about this plan. Accordingly, the senior leadership team and I will be hosting live chats next week. Please check your email for the time and a link.

Our collective commitment to create a culture of accountability and care is most important to our success and safety. I call on each of you to rely on our motto to guide our decisions that will help protect ourselves, our most vulnerable community members, and help our nation decrease the rampant spread of this disease. Without each of us observing these new practices and standards, we will be unable to continue our dearly desired campus-based interactions and instruction. The onus is on each of us.

Fortunately, I have great faith in our Queens Community. Together, we will overcome and learn from the significant challenges we know are ahead.

Sincerely,
Dan

Daniel G. Lugo
President