

Dear South Texas Community:

I hope your spring semester is off to a productive start.

As we begin this semester, and with continuing and new coronavirus issues in Houston and beyond, I thought it might be helpful to provide a quick recap of our COVID-19 expectations here at South Texas.

First, I want to reiterate the three key principles that have guided all of our actions during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Protect the health and safety of our community.
- Maintain excellence in our education.
- Preserve the strength of our special community.

**Our highest priority remains the health and safety of all in the South Texas family.** Thankfully, this is something well within our capabilities — **as long as each one of us does our part.** Please remember the following:

- **Your individual behavior either supports or threatens the safety of our entire STCL Houston community.**
- **You are responsible for following STCL Houston's COVID-19 policies and protocols, which are posted at [www.stcl.edu/health](http://www.stcl.edu/health).**
- **Your decisions and actions directly influence whether we are able to maintain campus operations and offer the hybrid teaching format.**

For that reason, I implore you to avoid crowds of people, wear a mask when in public, and continue proper social distancing guidelines. As a reminder, **unless you have consistently followed these and other CDC guidelines, do not come to campus;** the health and safety of our community depends upon it.

And should you need any support through this process, please send an email to [health@stcl.edu](mailto:health@stcl.edu) so that we can help.

Last week, [a new study by the Journal of the American Medical Association](#) found that **nearly 60 percent of all COVID-19 transmission comes from asymptomatic individuals.** This helps to explain the increasingly swift spread of the coronavirus in our region — and underscores the vital role our individual judgments, decisions, and actions have on our collective safety. **In other words, if you have not followed proper safety guidelines, you should assume that you have been exposed to or infected with the coronavirus — and therefore should self-isolate.**

**As a reminder, follow these steps to report potential COVID-19 exposure or infection to the law school:**

- First, submit your health status through the ReturnSafe app. If you don't have a smartphone, send an email to [health@stcl.edu](mailto:health@stcl.edu) with this information.
- Second, **please email each of your professors** with this news. Knowing your health status will enable them to better support you throughout your illness.

**The old adage says that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. What you do matters!** Each of us holds the power to protect (or to endanger) the health of the South Texas family and our own individual families.

**If you have any questions about COVID-19 or how you can receive support during this unpredictable time, please send an email to [health@stcl.edu](mailto:health@stcl.edu). And please visit STCL Houston's portal for all things related to COVID-19 at [www.stcl.edu/health](http://www.stcl.edu/health).** You'll find a wealth of information, coronavirus policies and protocols, specific scenarios for COVID-19 reporting, and an updated FAQ for your reference.

Please make wise decisions, support one another, and be safe.

All the best,

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