

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.**
- **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 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 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. And please visit STCL Houston's portal for all things related to COVID-19 at 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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