

Dear Campus Community:

For the past several weeks, our Planning to Return to Campus Steering Committee and its several task forces and sub-committees have worked tirelessly on developing detailed safety measures which will allow La Roche University to responsibly reopen for the 2020-2021 academic year. Though COVID-19 presents many unique challenges, the University has prepared—through extensive and careful planning—for a variety of scenarios as faculty and students return to campus.

In our official [health and safety plan](#) released today, you will find an extensive list of precautions and procedures that aim to maximize safety and mitigate risks as learning and operations resume on campus. Each decision outlined in our plan follows the protocols of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Allegheny County Health Department.

Effective July 20, the University's new health and safety policies include:

- All individuals in all public settings on campus—whether indoor or outdoor—must wear face coverings or disposable masks.
- Daily temperature and symptom screenings for faculty, staff, students and visitors.
- Social distancing protocols.
- Reducing the density of the number of students in classrooms and residence halls.
- Quarantine spaces for resident students who need to self-isolate due to a positive COVID-19 test or exposure.
- A phased return to work plan for non-essential employees to reduce social density.
- Routine cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces and service areas.

La Roche also revised its instructional delivery to reduce the campus footprint, which will enable adequate social distancing at all times. In addition to its normal small, immersive, in-class experiences, the University added more online courses and a new collaborative, Hi-Flex classroom model in which students only are physically in the classroom once per week.

Please visit laroche.edu/reopening to view the full reopening plan.

COVID-19 is a complex and evolving situation. Should conditions change, La Roche is prepared to take swift action to keep our community safe, and we will comply with all directives established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Allegheny County Health Department.

Everyone will have an opportunity to ask questions and get clarification about different aspects of the plan during virtual town halls. While we continue to work closely with local health officials for the most

up-to-date guidance and advice, we also welcome ideas, input and feedback from our students, faculty and staff. More information regarding the virtual town halls will be announced soon.

We all play a role in reducing the spread of COVID-19 on our campus and in the region, and we ask that all members of our community act with respect and responsibility toward one another as we endure these extraordinary circumstances together.

There is still much uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, but we are certain in our ability to provide high-quality instruction and meaningful educational experiences—both in person and online. And, I am confident in our ability to move forward, together, with courage and resilience—and with a renewed commitment to fulfilling our mission.

Blessings,



Sister Candace Introcaso, CPD, Ph.D.
President