

As we move toward the fall semester and continue our initial Return to Campus phased-in plan, here are Five Things You Should Know This Week:

1. The CARES Center for faculty, staff and students launches next week.

Last week, we shared that Georgia Southern is developing a centralized COVID-19 support system for faculty, staff and students. For your safety and for the safety of our community, Georgia Southern is providing this center to streamline communications in an effort to mitigate the spread of the virus on our campuses.

The COVID-19 Answers, Report, Evaluation and Support (CARES) Center provides answers to your COVID-19 related questions; a way to report test results, symptoms, and COVID-19 exposure; evaluation of your situation; and support for your COVID-19 related academic, employment and on-campus notification needs.

By completing one report through the MyGeorgiaSouthern portal, faculty, staff and students will be able to report if they have received COVID-19 positive test results, if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or if they have been informed by the Department of Public Health that they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. A CARES team, trained to help, is mobilized once the report is submitted.

This is the only report you will need to complete. You and those around you will receive further instructions as needed. A CARES team will handle all of the necessary notifications.

A contact notification process will be in place to help notify campus community members who likely had close contact with a person who has reported positive test results. Unlike contact tracing, which is performed by the Department of Public Health, contact notification helps the University quickly communicate to affected faculty, staff, and/or students to mitigate the potential spread of the virus.

In addition, CARES Center personnel will be available for the University community to answer general COVID-19 questions by phone, chat and email.

The CARES Center should not be used for medical advice. If you need medical advice, you need to call your health provider or 911.

Check your email next week for more information!

Until this process is announced to campus with details on how to reach out to the CARES Center, please continue to reach out to HR as well as your supervisor per guidance that has previously been shared by HR.

2. We are still waiting on delivery of some items for campus.

The Division of Facilities Services (DFS) reports that suppliers are backed up and have been delayed in providing disinfectant, germ shields and wall-mounted hand-sanitizer dispensers that the university has ordered. Each will be installed and distributed as soon as they arrive on campus.

3. More on how to wear, adjust and care for your mask or cloth face covering.

Human Resources' distribution of cloth face coverings to faculty and staff should be completed by the end of this week. As a reminder, each employee is scheduled to receive five coverings -- these are not medical-grade protective equipment but do provide an extra layer to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling in the air and onto other people. Staff whose job duties require the use of personal protective equipment will continue to be provided with appropriate gear.

The cloth face coverings provided to faculty, staff and students by Georgia Southern are designed to be one size fits most. There are many ways to adjust your mask to fit more comfortably around your ears, including using items such as rubber bands, string or shoelaces, to loop around the ear and tie around the back of your head. Many other techniques can be found by searching online.

Watch this video to learn more about properly wearing, adjusting and caring for your mask or cloth face covering.

4. The Department of Facilities Services has provided more details on building cleaning.

In response to several questions about cleaning schedules and procedures, the Department of Facilities Services is providing more information (see attachments) about office cleaning schedules, times, locations and procedures.

The attachment titled "Office cleaning schedule" includes information about cleaning dates for all buildings, listed by building name. "Office cleaning procedures" lists the tasks that staff perform on the nights when offices are cleaned (on the nights that offices are not on the schedule to be cleaned we ask

that faculty and staff place trash cans outside of their door if they need to be emptied). "Cleaning Service times" lists when faculty and staff can expect to see a staff member in their building providing services. During the morning and afternoon service the staff focus on high touchpoints. The fourth attachment "HighTouchSurfaces Cleaning" is from Diversey, the company that provides our core cleaning products and provides a great visual for what gets disinfected.

5. Chick-fil-A and Starbucks are open on the Statesboro campus.

Eagle Dining Services locations on the Statesboro and Armstrong campuses are returning to operation. Today, you may visit Starbucks, Chick-fil-A on the Statesboro campus. Locations on the Armstrong campus will be opening soon. Please be advised that social distancing and CDC guidelines will be observed. Most locations are available for to-go only.

Additional dining locations will open closer to the beginning of fall semester. If you have any questions, please contact eagledining@georgiasouthern.edu. Please visit our website for an updated list of summer 2020 hours of operation.