



Aug. 24, 2020

As we move forward with the fall semester as part of our Return to Campus phased-in plan, here are Five Things You Should Know This Week:

1. The university has a new tool for reporting COVID-19 Exposure and Health Alerts

The university has developed a [webpage](#) to provide current, relevant information about the status of the COVID-19 pandemic on our campuses as collected through our CARES Center for COVID-19 self-reporting. The information will be updated weekly on Mondays at noon and can be found on Georgia Southern's [COVID-19 information and resources page](#) under "Georgia Southern Resources." While all positive cases from the previous week will be reported, not all of the individuals who tested positive would have been on campus upon their diagnosis or during their illness. Please be reminded that the university is legally bound to protect the health and privacy information of individual faculty, staff, and students.

2. Face covering mandates are in effect in our communities

Please be advised the cities of Statesboro and Savannah have issued local ordinances that require the wearing of face coverings when in public. This complements Georgia Southern's requirement, which states that:

...all faculty, staff, students, and visitors wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings because six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Face covering use will be in addition to, and is not a substitute for, social distancing. Face coverings are not required in one's own dorm room or suite, when alone in an enclosed office or study room, or in campus outdoor settings where social distancing requirements are met.

Remember, these requirements are designed to protect the health of our communities. Each member of the university community has an individual responsibility to exercise proper behavior, to protect themselves and others as well as to help contain the spread of the virus. Institutional protocols are only as effective as the willingness of individuals to carry them out.

To view the specific ordinances online, [click here for Statesboro](#), and [click here for Savannah](#). Please be aware of local laws and national public health and safety guidelines, and Do Right!

3. Game on! Athletics announces seating capacity and other adjustments for Eagle Football

To align with guidance put in place by Georgia Governor Brian Kemp, and following NCAA, Sun Belt Conference, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Georgia Department of Public Health and University System of Georgia social distancing standards Georgia Southern will begin its football season at up to 25 percent stadium capacity at Allen E. Paulson.

Georgia Southern and the Department of Athletics remain committed to the safety and well-being of all students, faculty and staff as the University welcomes everyone back for the fall.

For football, the Eagles are still scheduled to play all six home games, starting with Campbell on Sept. 12. Paulson Stadium will begin the season with up to 25 percent capacity in the facility as the four grass hills and other previously unused spaces beyond the seating bowl will be open for seating this season. While at a reduced capacity number, all season ticket account holders will have the ability to attend all six home games this season. Read more [here](#).

4. Protect the privacy and security of your Zoom meetings

Zoom, Georgia Southern's web collaboration tool, allows all students, faculty, and staff to engage in safe, secure interactions by using in-application privacy tools. With in-person meetings and gatherings, facilitators might shut a classroom door or not publish meeting details publicly in an effort to exclude unintended participants who may create a distraction or who may not be the intended audience for the meeting or class.

Zoom allows users to "shut the door" to virtual meetings by not publicly posting meeting details on websites, requiring a password or registration for the meeting, or implementing a number of other security features that are native to the software platform. For more details on how Zoom meetings can be secured and for step-by-step instructions, please visit <https://its.georgiasouthern.edu/zoom/zoom-advanced-options/>.

ITS MyTech Support representatives are happy to guide users through these instructions or to provide assistance with any technology issues you may encounter. If you have questions about Zoom or other technology resources, please feel free to contact [ITS](#).

5. The CARES Center is available to help!

The [CARES Center \(for COVID-19 self-reporting\)](#) is available for anyone at Georgia Southern University to report they:

- Have tested positive for COVID-19, or
- Are experiencing COVID-19-related symptoms, or
- Were notified they are a close contact with a COVID-19 positive case.

This is an important element in our plan to protect the health of Eagle Nation. Thank you for your help in keeping our campus community safe and well!