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Five Things You Should Know This Week

University Communications and Marketing

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Jan. 4, 2021

In accordance with our Return to Campus plan, here are **Five Things You Should Know This Week**:

1. We must continue our commitment to Do Right!

Because of your vigilance, the fall semester showed the effectiveness of the precautions and planning we undertook to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on our campuses. Thank you for your care and partnership last semester – now, we must continue these efforts for the Spring 2021 semester. These guidelines for employees are archived online at <https://www.georgiasouthern.edu/covid-19-information/campus-health-faculty-staff/>.

When you're a True Blue Eagle, you do what Erk said — Do Right.

- Eagles Do Right when we follow public health guidelines.
- Eagles Do Right when we wash our hands.
- Eagles Do Right when we spread our wings (and remain at least 6 feet apart).
- Eagles Do Right when we encourage each other.
- Eagles Do Right when we respect our nest (by staying home when not feeling well).
- Eagles Do Right when we cover our beaks (with an appropriate face covering).

2. Reminder: face coverings are almost always required inside campus buildings.

All Georgia Southern faculty, staff, students and visitors are required to 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.

3. CARES Center is a valuable tool in our fight against COVID-19

The [CARES Center \(for COVID-19 self-reporting\)](#) has proven to be an important University resource that not only provides University officials real-time indication about COVID-19's impact on our campuses, but also initiates a support system for students to assure their well-being and academic success.

The CARES Center's ability to mitigate the spread of the virus on our campuses relies on the University community's willingness to engage and be forthcoming with information. In order to monitor public health, it is important to encourage both students and employees to contact the CARES Center to report if 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.

There are several ways to reach the CARES Center:

- Use the MyGS mobile app
- Complete the CARES Center COVID-19 self-reporting form available through the MyGeorgiaSouthern portal under the tile titled "COVID-19 Information & Resources"
- Call 912-478-CARE (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
- Email covidsupport@georgiasouthern.edu

4. Students arrive next week; let's set a good example

Classes begin Jan. 11, and students in residence halls will return this week. To comply with public health guidelines, housing staff are staggering move-in appointments and limiting the number of people who can be present to help students as they move in. As students start appearing on campus, there is no higher priority than the health and safety of our

students, faculty and staff. We need everyone to do their part to keep our campus communities and visitors safe. It's important for staff and faculty to set a good example for our students. To learn more about how Georgia Southern is responding to this pandemic, go to <https://www.georgiasouthern.edu/covid-19-information/>, where you can also find online education and training, a symptom checker and other resources.

5. New mental health resources are now available for students

Through a University System of Georgia (USG) partnership, Georgia Southern is significantly expanding student mental health services during the COVID-19 pandemic. The additional resources available to students include:

- Expanded psychiatric care and clinical counseling services to provide additional support to Georgia Southern's [Counseling Center](#). Expanded services include telephonic or in-person counseling options through a partnership with Christie Campus Health and well-being support programs.
- Expanded training and resources for mental health and wellness thanks to \$1.725 million in mini-grants made available to campuses. These funds can be used to establish new technology resources, increase campus programming or enhance communications. One example at Georgia Southern is a new folder full of materials to help you know more about local and national resources along with steps you can take to assist a student or colleague. These folders will be distributed soon, but you can see a digital version at <https://students.georgiasouthern.edu/counseling/herofolder/>
- A partnership with The Jed Foundation (JED) to help create a long-term strategic plan while implementing immediate actions and programs to support student mental health on campus. JED provides a comprehensive public health approach in promoting emotional well-being and preventing suicide and serious substance abuse.

Look for more information soon at <https://students.georgiasouthern.edu/>.