



December 16, 2020

Dear Students,

I hope this email finds you well! For my third and final spring planning email before the holidays, I wanted to update you all on new PA Department of Health quarantine timeframes and some other general arrival expectations. Please note that additional communications and zoom meetings regarding spring semester planning (including assigned arrival times) will come the first week in January.

**New PA Quarantine Timeframes:**

I am pleased to share that PA quarantine requirements have been reduced for individuals who have potentially been exposed to COVID-19. The new guidance requires a 10-day quarantine without testing, or a 7-day quarantine with a negative COVID-19 test on or after day 5 of quarantine. The College will continue to provide quarantine and isolation space when available, but may also require students to quarantine or isolate from home based on their distance from campus and/or space availability.

**Spring Arrival Expectations for Residential Students:**

As mentioned in the previous message about testing, all residential students will be required to participate in a COVID-19 test performed by the College upon arriving to campus. After receiving the test and receiving approval to move into campus housing, all residents be asked to “lay low” or limit activity and contact until their test results come back (typically around 48 hours). Once we receive a negative test result, students will be free to participate in normal activities. Until then, students will be expected to stay in their campus housing, avoid in-person contact with other members of the campus community (with exception to picking-up carry-out meals from the dining hall), and/or leaving their rooms for other essential reasons like retrieving medicine. Virtual student activities and other services will be available during the “lay low” timeframe as we wait for test results.

As mentioned in previous messages, residential students who are not arriving to campus early for athletics or other approved activities will receive assigned arrival dates by January 06. Please anticipate your arrival date being scheduled the week of January 18 – 24. Once receiving your date, please contact the office of student life at 724-589-2125 or email Bob Phillips at [rphillips@thiel.edu](mailto:rphillips@thiel.edu) if that date will not work for you and your family. However, we do ask that you try as much as possible to make your assigned date work if at all possible.

**Commuter Students:**

Commuter students will be required to have a COVID-19 test done within 5-days prior to their first

class and/or arriving to campus for other activities, and submit it to Health Services via email or fax prior to their scheduled arrival time ([health\\_services@thiel.edu](mailto:health_services@thiel.edu) or FAX#: 724-589-2875). Health Services will provide an email to verify receipt of the negative test results. Commuter students will not be required to participate in an on-campus arrival test unless otherwise notified by Health Services. However, commuter students may be required to be tested as part of on-going surveillance and symptomatic testing.

Commuter students are also required to complete and submit a screening form within 7-days prior to their arrival date. This form will be used to understand potential exposure levels of our population. Student can click on [this link](#) to obtain the form, or find it on the Thiel College [health and wellness page](#). Please complete the form and email or fax it to Health Services ([health\\_services@thiel.edu](mailto:health_services@thiel.edu) or FAX#: 724-589-2875)

**IMPORTANT FAFSA REMINDER:**

Each year there are students who lose gift aid dollars for which they are eligible by failing to complete the FAFSA form on a timely basis. While home for the extended winter break, please take the time to complete your FAFSA and make sure you are not one of thousands of students who miss out on free aid. To complete your FAFSA go to [www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov). If you have questions or difficulty with the form, please email the Financial Aid Office ([financialaid@thiel.edu](mailto:financialaid@thiel.edu)) and we would be glad to help you work through any of these issues.

Thank you again for your patience, understanding, and flexibility as we navigate these challenging times! We look forward to having you on-campus in the spring, and we wish you and your family a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season!

Best Regards,

Dean McKinney