



# Office of the President

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

July 17, 2020

Dear Lumberjacks,

While we recognize there are ongoing challenges resulting from the global pandemic, Northern Arizona University remains focused on our mission and committed to the success of our students, which led us to the decision to begin classes in August. Supporting the contributions, aspirations, and goals of our students is more important now than ever before, and we believe that we have the protocols and plans in place to mitigate risks to our students, faculty, and staff.

In consultation with public health authorities and officials, NAU has developed a comprehensive plan that includes educating students about hygiene, self-care, and prevention strategies, monitoring local and regional health trends, and robust testing, contact tracing, and isolation protocols. Importantly, our planning process is dynamic and continues to evolve as we learn more based on the latest authoritative information on the virus.

Our plan focuses on prevention and education that encompasses the entire Lumberjack community and includes mandatory training for students, faculty, and staff. Health monitoring is also integral to the overall plan, both through individual daily health screenings and tools like wastewater monitoring to determine trends in population health.

The NAU plan also emphasizes personal responsibility, including physical distancing, use of masks and face coverings, and education to ensure that members of our community avoid close contact in confined spaces and congested areas. Personal health kits will be provided to every student, faculty, and staff member, which will complement our enhanced cleaning and reduced density protocols. We are improving additional air flow and ventilation in campus buildings and are using technology to help inform students when they can access certain buildings and common areas in order to maintain appropriate physical distancing.

Personal responsibility of our students starts even before they arrive on campus—in fact, it starts now. We are asking all new and returning students to closely monitor their health in advance of their return to campus. If students are not feeling well or have symptoms, we ask that they avoid coming to campus until they have been healthy for 14 days. If their self-quarantine extends past the start of the semester, students can keep up with their studies by using [NAUFlex](#), for which they will be automatically signed up.

Testing, for both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals, and contact tracing are important elements of our plan, and both will be conducted in a way that respects the confidentiality of those affected. We will have ample facilities for isolation as warranted, and support services for students who are quarantined.

With regard to testing, NAU will ensure timely testing of all symptomatic individuals and those who come into contact with someone who has tested positive. Asymptomatic testing will also be

provided to help mitigate risk factors for individuals and our campus community. Campus Health Services will facilitate COVID-19 testing, and our NAU community is encouraged to use this service.

I'm sure you have many questions and I encourage you to review the [Jacks are Back website](#), which has been updated to provide additional detail on a number of areas, most notably [testing and contact tracing](#).

Flexibility in responding to the ongoing changes of the pandemic is key. We will continue to consult with county, state, and federal health officials, and will keep you informed as plans evolve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rita". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a trailing flourish.

**Rita Hartung Cheng**  
President