

Safety and Security Committee Update

Phase II: Preparing for a Limited Reopening of the College on June 1st

On Thursday, May 28, the Safety and Security Committee met to solidify guidelines for safely returning faculty, staff, and students during a Phase II Reopening of the College. The following recommendations were agreed upon—

1. In order to secure the health and well-being of instructors and students, masks are required to be worn by faculty and students in all classrooms and labs during the makeup of Spring coursework starting on June 1.
2. Faculty are to revise all Spring course syllabi by adding the following statement:

SAFETY AND SECURITY ISSUES IN THE CLASSROOM AND LAB

Given the challenges associated with community transmission of COVID-19, Eastern Gateway Community College remains staunchly committed to providing safe instructional environments for our student body. To this end, all students and faculty are required to wear masks in instructional settings this summer. Please also note, students and faculty are to self-monitor for symptoms concerning COVID-19 infection before every visit to campus. Eastern Gateway Community College has issued this directive that the classroom environment must demonstrate the appropriate level of protection to everyone involved. We believe strongly in having an environment where learning occurs and meeting educational outcomes is paramount to the educational experience. Furthermore, we value the well-being and health of all individuals and therefore are making the requirement of wearing masks. This requirement is done to protect the individual, one another and to demonstrate our respect for the health of all involved.

3. Reusable cloth face masks will be provided to all faculty and/or staff upon entrance to all EGCC buildings and Choffin Career Center. Additionally, one-time use masks and gloves will be available to students at all designated entrances. Face shields and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be available by request from Maggie Jackson (mjackson@egcc.edu) and Bob Roesenthaler (broeschenthaler@egcc.edu) in Steubenville or Art Daly (adaly@egcc.edu) in Youngstown.
4. The general public will not be permitted to enter any of EGCC buildings on June 1st. Only those who have been asked to come back to work at this time and those finishing up specific Spring Semester “makeup” courses.
5. A “bare bones” staff will be working from the Pugliese Building beginning June 1. All will be following strict social distancing guidelines. Those who have been asked to come back have been contacted by their managers. Of this group, no one is required to work on site. Right now, it is strictly voluntary.

6. The ventilation system in the energized radiology lab (Room 1508) has been checked and filters changed. Inspection documentation has been requested. Radiology faculty will continue to work with maintenance to ensure the safety of faculty and students in that area.
7. The College maintains that only “quality” hand sanitizer is being used in the restrooms on the Steubenville and Youngstown Campuses and at the Choffin Career Center. The “shelf life” of most hand sanitizers is 3 years. The cleaning vendors have reassured the college that no expired sanitizer is being used. All restrooms at the Steubenville and Youngstown campuses, and Choffin Career Center will be routinely cleaned and rigorously sanitized. Additional hand sanitizer stations will be available outside some classroom and labs beginning June 1.
8. If a student becomes COVID-19 symptomatic while on campus, security should be contacted. The student will be escorted from the building and sent home. If transportation is not readily available to that student, a local EMS crew will be contacted by security and the student will be taken home.
9. If faculty have additional concerns and requests for safety precautions throughout the re-opening period they ought to turn to their respective Dean. Faculty have been reassured by the College that the Deans will honor these added concerns.
10. Maintenance has re-configured classrooms and labs to provide the six feet of mandated social distancing and will continue to work with special faculty requests within classrooms and labs.
11. Faculty who are currently maintaining health labs will need to continue to do so. The handling and cleaning of sensitive lab equipment and chemicals remain with faculty.
12. The college will continue to offer psychological support for the emotional stress of the COVID-19 crisis. Trista Goss, a Licensed Social Worker and Behavioral Health Community Counselor from COMPASS Family and Community Services, continues to be available to conduct brief intervention with students and EGCC Faculty and Staff who may be feeling overwhelmed with stress or are struggling with symptoms of mental illness. Contact her at tgoss@egcc.edu or by phone at 330-718-1268 Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.
13. While face masks are being worn by faculty and staff, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that a mask with a clear opening or “window” be available for staff and faculty when they are working with students who read lips. Likewise, a microphone/P.A. system must be made available in classrooms where students do not read lips but need support for a hearing deficiency. (These items will be coordinated by Bob Roeschenthaler (rroeschenthaler@egcc.edu))

14. In order to better support faculty and staff on both campuses, the College will continue to distinguish caseload and infection rates between Mahoning and Jefferson Counties.
15. In order to keep up to date on COVID-19 issues and mandates, the College will continue to monitor and work with the appropriate governmental programs and reporting agencies in the State of Ohio.
16. Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, faculty will need to strike a balance of “teacher” and “rule enforcer” in the classroom. There are no standard directions for how to do this. The best approach may be to listen carefully to students who express concern about wearing a mask in the classroom. Reason with them by explaining that masks are used not only to protect the individual who wears one, but to provide additional safeguards for those with whom they come in contact (and who may be more vulnerable to infection).

EGCC Safety and Security Committee

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