

From: [Anderson, Chris](#)
Subject: SMSU Mustangs Return
Date: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:39:00 PM
Attachments: [SMSU-Letter-MustangsReturn-Expectations.pdf](#)

Dear Students, Staff, and Faculty,

Southwest Minnesota State University has worked hard to create an environment that will allow students to return to campus to learn this fall and connect with each other. It is now your responsibility to ensure that we are able to move forward with these plans. Your actions can directly impact the ability for us to successfully come together this fall.

Our expectation is that students, staff, and faculty not put themselves in situations where there is crowding or a lack of social distancing. It is everyone's responsibility to help reverse the statewide trend of positive cases and ensure that we can successfully function and deliver services this fall. So, we ask you to adhere to the following:

- When getting together in a social setting, whether indoors or outdoors:
 - Keep group sizes small (10 or fewer people) – the smaller the better!
 - Ensure at least 6-foot social distancing between you and your friends.
 - Meet outside if you can – it is less risky than meeting inside.
- Limit the number of people in small or common spaces.
- Avoid crowded bars and restaurants or other gathering spots.
- If you do go to a bar or restaurant:
 - Don't stay if tables aren't spread out. Clustering/crowding spreads COVID-19 fast.
 - Sit outside. We see less transmission of COVID-19 when people are outside.
 - Sit at a table with space between you and others rather than stand at a bar. It is too easy to get close to each other when you are standing.
 - When sitting with your friends, try to give yourself as much space as possible.
 - Wear a face covering when you are not eating or drinking.

Do your part to stay informed of our campus situation this fall. Be sure to check your SMSU emails regularly and follow the Mustangs Return link on the SMSU website <https://www.smsu.edu/mustangsreturn>

We are excited to have everyone back on campus this fall in a safe and supportive environment. Let's all commit to do the right thing, slow down, wear a mask, and spread out.

Sincerely,

Ross Wastvedt
Provost