

Dear LSC Community:

Welcome back to our students! Welcome to Spring 2021.

There are a few changes underway on our main campus: Yellow Bike's new location is almost ready, and work is progressing on Hawks Landing. We have a few more plans shaping up that we'll share a little later in the semester.

Meanwhile, our work to contain the COVID virus on campus continues. Yesterday, Governor Walz described the roll-out of vaccines in our state (also available on the [MDH website](#)): The next doses of COVID-19 vaccine, after those that are going to health care workers and long-term care residents, will be offered to:

- Frontline essential workers and people age 75 years and older (referred to as "phase 1b"). As of January 19, 2021, phase 1b now includes teachers and students in grades K-2. More grades will be added as the vaccine is made available.
- People age 65-74 years, people age 16-64 years with high-risk medical conditions, and other essential workers (referred to as "phase 1c").

**We do not yet know if post-secondary institutions (Colleges and Universities in particular) will be included in phase 1c. The final decisions about how and when to distribute COVID-19 vaccine ultimately come from Governor Tim Walz.**

The Minnesota State system is closely following (and advocating) for our higher education community. Last week, I shared a memo from the system office with campus employees. Here is part of that message:

“As distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine ramps up, we know there are many questions about what to expect for yourself and for your colleagues. Like you, we are closely monitoring the work of the [Minnesota COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation Advisory Group](#) and advocating for our employees and students as the Advisory Group develops the next phases and priorities for distributing the vaccines in our communities. As described in the linked website above, The Advisory Group is using four principles to guide their important work including:

- **Maximize benefits and minimize harms:** Protect the population's health by reducing mortality and serious morbidity.
- **Promote justice:** Respect people and groups and promote solidarity and mutual responsibility.
- **Mitigate health inequities:** Strive for fairness and protect against systematic unfairness and inequity.
- **Promote transparency:** Respond to needs respectfully, fairly, effectively, and efficiently in ways that are accountable, transparent, and worthy of trust.”

-Vice Chancellors Maki and Davis

In the meantime, a new [Vaccine Data website](#) was launched to offer transparency to the distribution process. You can track the Minnesota vaccine distribution at any time using this website.

So for now, we will continue our practices as stated in LSC's pandemic plan available at: <https://www.lsc.edu/coronavirus/> . As always, we will update the plan, **and you**, if there are any changes or new information.

Be well, stay safe, and take care of your health. We have this, Icehawks!

Patricia L. Rogers, Ph.D.

President

Lake Superior College

Pronouns: She, Her, Hers -- [More about pronouns](#)

