

Dear LSC Community:

Can you believe it? Next week begins our fall 2020 semester. Where did the summer go?

As I mentioned in my July 29th campus message, this campus is abuzz with activity! Everyone is working hard, everyone is going above and beyond to prioritize safety and adjust to our new practices and procedures. Walk around the campus and the campus locations: great work is happening and it shows!

With many thanks to our recruitment, marketing, and student success teams, enrollment is coming back strong and everyone's hard work is reflected in the positively increasing numbers with both recruitment and retention. Yes, we still have a way to go, but all of your efforts are moving us in the right direction. Some of our student senators are back, and they are already pitching in to prepare for next week. Many thanks to everyone!

As you can imagine, there are still more changes to adjust to and challenges to overcome but time and time again the LSC campus community rises to the occasion. This upcoming week will be the busiest ever with Early Bird events, Duty Days and last-minute preparations before the new semester begins. Amidst this energetic activity, the health and safety of our campus community remains our #1 priority. This past Monday we began a soft launch and rollout of a new online COVID-19 self-assessment screening tool, designed and administered by the Minnesota State system office. This is yet another way the system office, and all of us, are working to help keep our students, faculty, staff, and guests as safe as possible. Thank you for your cooperation!

We greatly appreciate that you are completing the assessment prior to coming to campus. Please help continue to spread the word and remind your colleagues, students and guests about the screening. We know what an incredibly busy time this is as we gear up for the start of fall semester. The intention isn't to create more work, but rather to provide a simple and quick way to help keep each other safe. We are asking anyone who plans on coming to any campus location for more than 15 mins to complete the screening at [lsc.edu/covid19selfassessment](https://www.lsc.edu/covid19selfassessment) each day they'll be on campus.

We have received some great questions and feedback about the screening tool, as we know other schools have been hearing too, and we've shared that input with system office. They're still making some adjustments to the tool in hopes to have it even smoother before the semester begins. The screening tool is meant to help remind us of basic health and safety guidelines, and help identify who will be on a campus location on any given day in case contact tracing becomes necessary.

We know it's a helpful, convenient and well-intended tool but we also know it's still a work in progress. The tool is a starting point, and simply replaces the self-assessment questions we had originally proposed. It's not necessarily meant to be a decision maker for us. **The screening tool does not replace the requirement to contact your supervisor to gain approval for a leave.**

With that said, if you are sick or answer "yes" to any of the assessment tool questions, please continue to work with your supervisor, who will continue to work with the VP in your area and HR to determine what's the best course of action. There's also a handy one-page handout called Help Stop The Spread of COVID-19 located on the LSC's COVID-19 Back to Campus Preparedness

Plan: <https://www.lsc.edu/preparednessplan/> .

These tools are meant to help guide us through a unique and constantly changing process. They, along with the campus Preparedness Plan itself, are living documents and will continue to be updated as the situation continues to evolve.

The bottom line is we need everyone to continue to remain flexible as we adapt to the times. If you plan on being on campus, please continue to complete the screening tool but most importantly continue to communicate with your supervisor if you have any questions, concerns or want more information.

As we get closer to the start of the semester, we have a communication plan to help remind and inform students, employees and guests about these tools and other health and safety guidelines. You'll continue to see emails, web updates, social media posts, signage and campus alerts but we also need everyone working together, all hands on deck, to help prioritize safety, help spread the word and help support our students and each other.

Thank you for all your efforts!

Patricia L. Rogers, Ph.D.

President

Lake Superior College

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