

KNIGHTS RETURN – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Food Service:

Q: What are the dine-in rules, and how will the cafeteria operate?

A: The Knights Return document reads:

- Our dining area capacity is currently set at 250 by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), so seating is arranged to allow for necessary social distancing.
- Students will be able to eat with anyone in groups of four (similar to restaurant rules).
- The Pioneer Catering staff will wear PPE to maintain the health and safety of our campus family.
- Buffet and self-serve options will limit the number of diners who can dine in and also the number who can be present on the buffet line at one time.
- Individual sanitation practices will be required for everyone who uses self-serve options.
- In addition to dining in, students will be able to utilize to-go options. Additional seating will be available outside in campus green space for those who make use of to-go options.
- As the school year begins and cafeteria staff is adjusting to new serving procedures, only students will be served in the cafeteria. Faculty and staff will have access to the employee lounge and campus picnic tables for dining. We anticipate this to be a short-term necessity.
- Late Nite will run from 7:30 to 11:30 pm.

Athletics:

Q: Will athletes have to arrive earlier than normal?

A: All fall athletes will be arriving on campus as scheduled to begin phasing in protocols designed for their particular sport. Athletes will hear from their coach as to the details.

Q: Will the Fitness Center be open?

A: Yes, the Fitness Center will be open for the campus family only. Exercise times and workout spaces have been adjusted to accommodate the COVID-19 plans. All campus safety protocols for those activities will be followed.

Q: Will we have open gym?

A: Planning for intramural sports and open gym activities will be ongoing. Watch for future announcements.

Q: Will students continue to have access to the Vogel Recreation Center?

A: Yes. However, Vogel is currently under major renovations, so the services available to MLC students are track, strength training equipment and machines, cardio machines, and racquetball courts by appointment.

Chapel:

Q: How will we conduct chapel worship?

A: We will follow these protocols:

- Seats are socially distanced. Backpacks will be brought into chapel to avoid crowding in the chapel gathering space.
- Masks are to be worn except for when worshipers receive the Lord's Supper.
- Worship materials will be posted on the screens. (Two screens are now available. In addition, AVCO will make worship materials available on personal devices.)
- Enhanced airflow measures will allow for limited singing in each service.
- Since the current attendance in chapel is restricted to 250, groups will be assigned a day of the week to attend morning chapel live. They will have priority seating on their assigned day. (There will be room for some walk-ins.) Others are encouraged to watch morning chapel from their dorm rooms.
- Evening chapel is Monday – Friday, 7:15 - 7:30 pm.
- Because of the attendance restrictions at our local churches, MLC will offer on-campus services on Saturday evening (7:00 pm) and Sunday morning (9:30 am and 11:00 am). The services will be the same on Saturday and Sunday.
- Communion will be celebrated on the first and third weekends of the month.
- We will hold Compline Service on Monday evenings at 10:00 pm.
- Weekend worship services, evening chapel, and Compline will allow for open seating. There will be no assigned groups for those worship opportunities.

Music:

Q: Will choirs and band still be held?

A: Choirs will be conducted following appropriate group sizes and distancing for available spaces. Music ensembles will meet in small groups with social distancing and with limited meeting times. Masks will be worn to the fullest extent possible. No robes will be worn. Smaller rooms will utilize air purifiers. Students may opt for virtual individual instrument lessons.

Q: Will organs and pianos be available for use?

A: Yes. Musicians will follow distancing guidelines and masking protocols, and proper cleaning procedures (daily and before/after each use) will be in place. Some instruments will not be available due to the added use of large spaces for instructional purposes. New and refurbished instruments will increase some availability.

Academics:

Q: What changes will be made to the attendance policy?

A: Apart from illness or the need for quarantining, attendance policies will remain the same. Regular communications with professors and instructors are always recommended.

Q: Do we know the opening and closing dates for the semester?

A: Opening of the fall semester is the same as scheduled – Monday, August 24. The last day of face-to-face instruction will be November 25, followed by a week of distance

learning after Thanksgiving and a week for final exams. The last day of class will be Thursday, December 10.

Q: Can you tell me what classes will look like this year (size, instructional methods)?

A: Currently, 95% of instructional sections will be meeting together face to face in spaces that will allow appropriate social distancing. Section sizes will vary, based on the maximum capacity of the teaching space. All teaching spaces will utilize their maximum capacity based on appropriate social distancing protocols.

Q: How will MTLE tests for education majors be handled?

A: Much will depend on whether or not testing sites are open where the students are. Students can check the sites near us (or their homes) at <http://www.mtle.nesinc.com/Home.aspx>

Q: Will my class schedule change?

A: All students have been informed about any class schedule changes.

Q: Are all classes still available?

A: All classes are available, with the necessary accommodations that have already been shared with all students.

Q: How will students carry out student teaching and clinical experiences?

A: **Research of the plans for these school placements is ongoing.**

Q: How will exams be handled in December?

A: Exam week for semester one will be carried out through distance learning one week prior to the dates originally scheduled. Professors will choose the content and format of the exams.

Q: Do I need to bring my school materials home for the weeks following Thanksgiving?

A: Yes. There is a week of class after Thanksgiving followed by a week for semester exams or other final class assignments. Professors will provide specific directions as the time for exams approaches.

Q: Will the December graduation service be held?

A: Mid-year graduation will not be held in person, and we will not be able to conduct it virtually. Instead, we are inviting and encouraging our December graduates to participate in the May 2021 graduation service. Diplomas will still be mailed to mid-year graduates. They will arrive in January.

Cocurricular:

For events planned for the fall semester, MLC will follow this guiding principle:

*As we respond to the changing conditions in our local and global society, our guiding principle is **safety**. We will keep our campus family as safe as possible through our social, academic, and athletic mitigation practices. We will also keep our supporting community safe by hosting only*

essential on-campus events with all necessary precautions and by providing virtual alternatives for other events where possible.

Q: What cocurricular activities in the first semester will still be held?

A: Many new events are being planned for the first semester. Even though many of the typical dorm events won't work under our safety protocols, events will be organized that allow students to experience socialization and fun competition in outdoor spaces and virtual environments suitable for our Knights Return plans. In addition, intramurals are still being planned. **Research and refinement of these plans are ongoing.**

Q: Will student organizations still be able to function?

A: If the organizations can meet within the COVID-19 safety guidelines, they can conduct business as planned. Events associated with the organizations will need to be approved and must comply with established safety guidelines.

Student Life:

Q: What is the schedule for orientation days for first-year students and parents?

A: The 2020 orientation schedule has been posted on the MLC [website](#).

Q: What help will be available for students moving into the dorms?

A: Family members may help their students settle in to their dorm rooms, but we would ask that . . .

- no family member who has COVID symptoms come to campus,
- most of the moving work be delegated to the RA and dorm staff members,
- the number of visitors who enter the dorm be limited to 1-2 family members,
- anyone helping should be careful about masking and social distancing, and
- family members keep their stay on campus to a minimum.

Other MLC students are welcome to help their fellow Knights move in while practicing COVID safety protocols. (RA's will not be available, since they will be busy with first-year student orientation activities.)

Q: Are students allowed to leave campus?

A: We understand that students work off campus, and basic needs should be met. However, for the safety of our campus family and our New Ulm community, students are strongly encouraged to remain on campus as much as possible. If travel around New Ulm and the nearby area is necessary, limit contact in the community as much as possible, and practice the same masking and social distancing measures we have in place on campus.

Q: If students leave campus for the weekend, will they have to quarantine when returning?

A: Exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19 may necessitate quarantining. Currently, Minnesota has no restrictions for out-of-state travelers, but this could change quickly. Travelers to Minnesota should stay current on Minnesota travel and entry restrictions

through the [MDH traveling site](#). Students should plan to stay on campus as much as possible and wait for semester break to travel away from the area or to visit home. The calendar for the first semester has compressed the time students will be on campus by alleviating breaks and has balanced that with a longer Christmas break. We hope this schedule will make it bearable for students to delay seeing their families until semester break. The campus nurse and Student Life Office will be available to answer questions.

Q: What is the policy regarding the wearing of masks?

A: The [Knights Return document](#) includes all details for our campus safety protocols, including masks. These measures comply with MDH directives and are in place to ensure the safety of our campus family and New Ulm community. In addition, the [Mask Up, Knights](#) page provide specific details regarding when and where to mask.

Q: Will there be exceptions to wearing masks if someone has a physical or psychological condition?

A: Governor's Order 20-81 states:

"The following individuals are exempt from face covering requirements of this Executive Order: Individuals with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that makes it unreasonable for the individual to maintain a face covering. This includes, but is not limited to, individuals who have a medical condition that compromises their ability to breathe, and individuals who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance." Individuals who request to use face shields as an alternative face covering will be required to provide a physician's notice.

Q: Would face shields be an option in the classroom?

A: Governor's Order 20-81 states:

"Students and faculty are permitted to wear face shields as an alternative to face coverings in the following situations:

- i. When faculty are teaching a class or giving a lecture, or when students are participating in classroom activities, where it is important for the face to be seen (for example, certain activities in language or communications classes).
- ii. Where a face covering may pose a hazard due to the nature of the class or activity (for example, in a laboratory component of a class).
- iii. When staff or faculty are providing direct support student services and a face covering impedes the service being provided."

In addition, the MDH Stay Safe guidelines for higher education state: "Those teaching class or course must wear a face covering or face shield unless physical distance of 6 feet or greater can be maintained at all times from students in their class."

Q: What guided the decisions regarding students wearing masks?

A: Our preparedness plan and applications are drawn from the MN Governor's order 20-81, MDH guidelines, Minnesota Office of Higher Education guidelines, and Brown County Public Health counsel.

Q: Will students need to bring their own masks/thermometer/cleaning supplies?

A: Students should bring their own personal masks (several are recommended), a thermometer, and dorm room cleaning supplies. Cleaning supplies for classrooms and common spaces will be provided by MLC.

Q: I'm concerned about the CampusClear phone app that we will be using to report our health each day. Will that app be tracking my locations? What will be done with the data it gathers?

A: The CampusClear app is used as an easy way for the MLC family to monitor their daily health and report possible issues before they infect others. The app will not be used for contact tracing or to record data that would be shared with anyone.

Q: How will large spaces like the chapel and cafeteria be cleaned?

A: As stated in the Knights Return document:

- MLC will take the necessary steps to establish the appropriate standards and protocols for cleaning and disinfecting based on recommendations from the CDC and MDH. Faculty, staff, and students will be expected to participate in these efforts.
- Priority spaces and objects have been identified and will be cleaned and disinfected more frequently due to their location in high-traffic areas. Daily cleaning and disinfecting will be applied to high-touch objects such as door handles, elevator panels, and railings as well as common areas in the work and academic environments.

Q: How will the library operate?

A: Library furniture will be rearranged to follow social distancing guidelines. After being returned, library materials will be "quarantined" for a period of time before being checked in and put back on the shelves. Use of digital resources (ebooks, articles) will be encouraged. Bringing your own supplies (dry erase markers and erasers, pens and pencils, etc.) will be encouraged. Some areas of the library may be used as classrooms.

Q: Will someone with a medical background check on quarantined and isolated students to assess whether they need further medical treatment?

A: The campus nurse and local medical personnel will monitor those students who are in quarantine and isolation.

Q: How and where will it be possible for families to gather?

A: First and foremost, all family members who come in contact with MLC students on or off campus must be COVID-19 symptom-free. Families may gather outside on campus if they follow masking and social distancing guidelines as stated in the [Knights Return](#) plan. (Masks will not be required in outdoor spaces unless it's not possible to maintain social distancing.) If families gather off campus, we would ask that those gatherings are also conducted with appropriate safety precautions.

Q: Will open dorms continue?

A: In the spirit of our campus visitor policy, we want to keep some level of separation of our dormitory populations. The dorm staff is not planning on open dorm times this semester, certainly not until we have experience with all of our students back on campus for some time. Similarly, each student ID will only grant access to that student's own dormitory. Many efforts are being made to develop and maintain safe gathering spaces for our students to socialize safely.

Q: If a student who normally flies to MLC gets the virus, will that student be expected to go home?

A: Our first response if a student contracts the COVID virus is to see whether that student can safely go home. If that is not possible due to illness or distance, that student's residence will be temporarily moved to designated isolation rooms.

Housing:

Q: Are single rooms available to students?

A: Students who have underlying conditions that place them at a greater risk for infection will be provided with separate, single-occupancy housing. Due to the additional rooms needed for quarantining and isolation, single room options for other students will not be available this year.

Q: What safety measures will students need to practice in the dorms?

A: Students need to wear masks in the public areas, such as hallways, bathrooms (as much as possible), and group gathering spaces. Outside their individual rooms, students need to practice social distancing as much as possible.