



August 3, 2020

Dear Trojan Community,

As you are aware, the trend lines regarding COVID-19 positive cases show that infections continue to increase. Cases are rising in more than half of the States and specifically in many areas where our Trojans live. According to the Virginia Department of Health, twelve health districts in the Commonwealth are experiencing surges, including eight in the Hampton Roads area. On current course, Virginia is projected to have 15,000 weekly cases, and growing, by early September.

Given this development, as well as it being unlikely that there will be a dramatic reversal in the public health situation before the fall semester begins on Aug. 17, **Virginia State University has made the informed decision to require all faculty, staff, and students to be tested for COVID-19. Therefore, we will delay the return to on-campus classes and on-campus housing by conducting the first four weeks of the fall 2020 semester FULLY ONLINE/REMOTE.** The delayed return permits VSU adequate time for testing protocols without altering the full academic calendar.

TESTING

VSU will mail COVID-19 tests to all faculty, staff, and students. The test will include a return envelope for analysis. Every faculty, staff, student must complete and submit the at-home COVID-19 test and receive negative results before returning to campus. There is no cost to individuals for the test kit and analysis. All faculty, staff, and students who are returning to campus will be re-tested upon arrival on campus. More information about testing will be provided later this week.

SCHEDULE

All VSU classes will begin as scheduled on August 17, 2020 **ONLINE/REMOTE**. On-campus move-in will begin August 31- September 7, 2020 (specific times and dates will be provided.) We will transition to face-to-face and hybrid on-campus classes on Monday, September 14, 2020. Students enrolled in virtual classes will continue to take those classes remotely.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) and TOWN HALL MEETING

To better address your questions, please visit our regularly updated [FAQ page](#) on our website. In addition, we have scheduled a town hall meeting to address additional questions. The date will be shared within the coming days. Meanwhile, please visit our website for additional information regarding our full [VSU Reopening Plan](#).

Trojan Family, although we have repeatedly noted that all fall plans are subject to public health conditions, we understand that this news may be disappointing. "As much as we miss our Trojan Family and desire to experience the vibrancy that you bring to our campus, we cannot, in good conscience, put your health and safety in jeopardy by allowing you to return to campus in August while COVID-19 numbers are on the rise," says VSU President, Dr. Makola M. Abdullah. "We understand this change may present some challenges, and we are committed to providing guidance and support to you as we continue through this transition."

Trojan Family, we will work TOGETHER to get through this TOGETHER; TOGETHER, we are Trojan Strong. We will see you soon.