

From: Bethel University <covid-19@bethel.edu>

Subject: COVID-19 Update: Welcoming Students this Fall

[PreferredName]—

Over the last several weeks, teams of employees have been diligently working on plans that will allow us to continue to provide academically excellent education in a safe, modified face-to-face format. Based on this critical work and the latest recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, **I am excited to announce that students in all schools will be returning to Bethel for the fall semester.**

The academic calendar for each school (start dates, breaks, and finals) will continue as scheduled. This aligns with the schedule provided to employees in the [employee reopening plan](#). Over the next several weeks, we will continue to communicate important details regarding the safety and wellbeing of our community this fall. These details will address:

- Undergraduate student move-in and arrival
- Adjustments to campus life to accommodate for social distancing
- Testing and contact tracing
- Student support and community life

In addition to these important details, there will be a series of community gatherings and Q&A sessions for employees, students, and parents, where information specific to each group will be provided. We will communicate dates for these events as soon as they are available.

The first half of 2020 has presented us with no shortage of challenges and disruptions. However, I am amazed and encouraged by what God is doing in and through Bethel. Our graduates are serving on the [front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic](#) and [instilling hope in their communities](#). Thank you for your commitment to preparing our students to tackle some of the world's biggest challenges—for God's glory and our neighbors' good.

It's an honor to serve with you.

Ross

Ross Allen
President-Elect
Bethel University