

April 2, 2021

Dear WSU Tech Team,

It is hard to believe that more than a year has passed since we first began implementing changes on our campus in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. While we perhaps adapted to a new sense of normal, we cannot overlook the enormity of all that we accomplished: a shift to online learning, remote working, and rapid response to ever-changing public health orders dictating mask requirements, social distancing, gathering limitations, and travel quarantines. We understand that navigating through this pandemic has required sacrifices – great and small – from all of us and we remain grateful for your continued cooperation, patience and flexibility.

While the future of this pandemic and its effect on our daily lives still remains somewhat unknown, we are pleased to be coming to you with a message of cautious optimism as we continue our transition a mode of operation similar to before the pandemic.

Changes to public health orders

As you know, last week, Sedgwick County Commissioners voted to rescind all local COVID health orders, effectively immediately, and adopted a resolution that strongly recommends that individuals continue to practice COVID-healthy behaviors for the next 90 days: be vaccinated when eligible, wear a mask and maintain social distance. Since the beginning of this pandemic, we have followed all guidance and orders issued by state and local public health authorities. ***Accordingly, WSU Tech has rescinded all mandates requiring masks, social distancing and mass gathering limitations on our campus.*** However, we continue to strongly encourage our entire campus community to engage in these practices whenever possible. We *also* encourage everyone to get the vaccine. We will continue all cleaning protocols until further notified. Domestic travel is now re-instated and all food restrictions are removed.

We understand that, in certain cases, there may be programmatic requirements for faculty, staff and students to wear masks – for example, students on clinical practicums and rotations, or in those

instances where close contact cannot be avoided, and additional precautions may be warranted. Please consult with your supervisor for further instructions.

We are working on a return to pre-pandemic operations for our faculty and staff beginning June 1. More details will be forthcoming.

Finally, as we have said countless times before, if this pandemic taught us nothing else, it is that even the best-laid plans and intentions cannot guarantee us certainties. So, as we work toward what will now be our post-pandemic normal, we understand that we *must* continue to remain flexible and willing and able to pivot to alternative arrangements as circumstances dictate. We ask for your understanding and patience during these next few months. We will continue to keep you updated on our plans for summer, fall and beyond.

Thank you for all you do and for your commitment to WSU Tech

With gratitude,

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