

Hello,

Hope you had a good week!

In this email update, we have information about the COVID-19 community covenant, guidelines for reopening this fall, a reminder about upperclassmen move-in, and more.

COVID-19 Community Covenant

Students, please read please sign the COVID-19 Community Covenant on u.dordt.edu/covid/covenant, acknowledging the expectations and processes that Dordt has established through the community covenant.

Students, you are required to review and sign the COVID-19 Community Covenant on u.dordt.edu/covid/covenant before the first day of class on Tuesday, August 25. You will not be allowed to attend classes without completing this form.

Employees and parents, you will not be able to access the u.dordt.edu/covid/covenant link, but we have attached the COVID-19 Community Covenant for you to read.

Re-Opening Campus This Fall

Dordt University's primary goal for the fall semester is to provide a safe on-campus environment for students and employees. Reaching this goal requires cooperation, collaboration, and careful living from all members of the Dordt community.

As part of our reopening plan, all Dordt students are required to complete BOLT-030, "Reopening Dordt University," in Canvas, where you will watch a short video called "[Guidelines for Reopening](#)," read some additional sources, and answer a questionnaire. Please complete the questionnaire by Tuesday, September 1.

Remember to Wear your Mask

Dordt is a mask-required environment for all – that includes employees, students, families, and any visitors.

When you are on Dordt's campus, you must wear a mask in all public places or common indoor spaces, including:

- Hallways, including in dorms and apartments
- Restrooms
- Classrooms
- Laboratories
- The Hulst Library
- In the entrance to the Rec Center and in the locker rooms
- Conference rooms
- Building and office lobbies

You do not need to wear a mask when:

- You are in your dorm room or apartment
- You are working out in the Rec Center
- You are outside and are more than six feet from other people

- You are working in an office by yourself or more than six feet from co-workers
- You are separated from visitors or passersby by a plastic screen

Masks should be at least two layers of material. Please wash your mask regularly, perhaps as often as you wash your underwear. It is important to [remove face masks correctly](#) and wash your hands after handling or touching a used face mask.

Heightened Precautions on Friday, August 21, through Monday, August 24

Please be aware that, on Friday, August 21, through Monday, August 24, all individuals on Dordt's campus, including employees, will be required to wear masks and practice physical distancing both indoors and outdoors at all times. One exception to this rule is that employees will not need to wear masks when in their own offices.

A Reminder about Self-Assessment

Employees, please remember that you are required to complete the daily health assessment. You may access the form at u.dordt.edu/covid, and it should be filled out once every 24 hours.

Students, you are required to fill out the daily health assessment on u.dordt.edu/covid every day for 15 days prior to your arrival on Dordt's campus. Please fill out the form once every 24 hours until you arrive on campus.

Students, if you do not complete this process, *you will not be allowed to begin classes.*

Once you arrive on campus, you will be asked to continue to fill out the health assessment on a daily basis until Wednesday, September 30, or beyond, depending on circumstances.

Get Ready for Week of Welcome

New student move-in begins in just 9 days! In a continued effort to love our neighbors, the Week of Welcome team will be enacting a "stand apart so we can stay together" plan on Friday, August 21, through Monday, August 24. During these days, physical distancing and mask wearing will be required for everyone on campus both indoors and outdoors at all times, excluding meals.

In addition, families are encouraged to allot three hours for the complete move-in process. Upon arriving at the check-in tent in front of the Clock Tower, families will receive a checklist of items to complete (also available online at dordt.edu/wow). These tasks should be completed by 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 21.

Finally, we will schedule individual appointments for each student and their academic adviser; students will learn of their specific advising time and location at the check-in tent when they arrive. Students arriving on Friday, August 21, will likely have their advising appointments scheduled for the morning of Saturday, August 22, while those arriving on Saturday will meet with their adviser on Monday, August 24.

Picking Up Packages at the Print and Mail Center

Picking up your packages from the Print and Mail Center will look a little different this fall. In addition to having physical distancing lines down the hallway, the Print and Mail Center will have extended hours of 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. through the fall semester. More information will

be sent out soon. In the meantime, if you have questions, please reach out to james.rylaarsdam@dordt.edu.

Attending Church

From now until Sunday, September 13, students are asked to only virtually attend local churches. Area churches are eager to have you all back in person but attending virtually is what seems best for Dordt and the Sioux Center community as we try to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and love our neighbors in the process. Your cooperation is deeply appreciated.

In the meantime, we strongly encourage you to utilize the Livestream links on local church websites to begin connecting with them virtually. Let's reserve 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Sunday mornings as a quiet time in our dorms and apartments so we are respectful of everyone tuning in to worship services virtually. And, you're welcome to gather as roommates or close friends to watch church services together. Just remember, that if you are in a public or common space, mask-wearing will be required.

We'll continue to collaborate with local church leaders regarding in-person attendance from September 13 and beyond but, like so many other things in life right now, our situation could change, and we'll keep you informed accordingly.

Plans for Chapel

As of right now, chapel will continue to take place during the 11 a.m. block on Wednesdays as a campus-wide time for worship. Based on student experience and feedback as well as broader health conditions, how we worship together as a campus may change throughout the fall semester and the course of the year. But, for now, the plan is to gather in the B.J. Haan Auditorium on a rotating schedule so that physical distancing can be maintained, and everyone can take their turn experiencing live worship in a safe environment.

Chapel will be broadcast via Livestream, and alternate viewing locations will be announced around campus. As usual, offices, the Hulst Library, the Grille, and other on-campus spots will also be closed from 11 – 11:45 a.m. on Wednesdays to allow for staff, students, and faculty to worship. Chapels will be reposted later the same day and archived on dordt.edu/chapel for later viewing or listening, like all chapel services. The first chapel of the year will be on Wednesday, August 26; weather permitting, it will be held outside.

Convocation to Be Held on Friday, August 28

To convocate means "to gather together"; the service marks the formal beginning of the academic year. Convocation will be held on Friday, August 28 at 11 a.m. Due to COVID-19, we'll be celebrating Convocation a little differently this year. The service will be held via Livestream, and everyone is encouraged to participate by watching on their favorite device. Watch parties at various locations across campus will also be encouraged.

And, because we can't all gather together that day, we'll ask all faculty, from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., to dress in their academic regalia, understanding that COVID-19 implications may need to dictate alternative dress for headwear. This will provide our students ample opportunity to ask professors about their own academic journey and how God has directed

their story of learning. Ask them about the color of their robe, the number of stripes on it, the colors of their hood, and the history behind academic regalia. So, even if we can't meet en masse, we can still celebrate the gift of learning and the amazing faculty and staff that God has brought to Dordt to form this learning community.

A Reminder about Upperclassmen Move-In

Upperclassmen, please let us know in advance when you plan to arrive on campus. Please fill out [this form](#) by today (Friday, August 14), to indicate your arrival time and help us welcome you back to campus well.

Interested in Student Government?

Interested in Student Government? Here's a chance for you to consider joining! Check out Student Government's [latest Instagram post](#) to learn more.

Packing and Preparation Checklist

As you make plans to come to campus this fall, we ask that you limit the number of items you bring. This will be helpful for you in case there is a change of plans with on-campus classes. We encourage you to pack only essential dorm room items.

Also, please plan to pack the following items:

- Medications
- Inhalers and nebulizers for those with respiratory conditions
- Thermometer
- Hand sanitizers and refills
- Water bottle
- Fever-reducing medicine
- Insurance card
- Face masks (enough for one each day between laundry days)

Prior to coming to campus, we encourage you to schedule an appointment with your physician, especially if you have underlying health concerns that place you at risk for complications from COVID-19.

We're looking forward to seeing you on campus soon!