

COVID information for SoTA

Campus will behave differently this fall, and the School of Theatre Arts will be a part of this change. Your decision to return to campus brings with it a tacit agreement that you understand this new, untested paradigm that we are creating to deliver our curriculum and productions in the arena of the COVID19 pandemic. Your return also signals to all of us - students, faculty and staff - that you are willing to abide by the protocols of the university and of SoTA. **It is incumbent upon all of us to comply with all health and safety policies at all times.** Indeed, the success of our curriculum and productions depends upon it.

Everyone will need several masks (at least 7) that are washable/reusable. Masks are required in all buildings on campus and during close activity outside as well. During physical activity you will want several masks available so that you can change out to a new mask when the one you are wearing becomes uncomfortable due to moisture. You may want to bring along face shields - although not required, they are a personal choice. You will also want to bring your own thermometer to take your temperature daily.

Those of you enrolled in dance, movement and performance classes: some of these classes may be held outside. You will want layers of clothing to accommodate changing temperatures. You will also want good sneakers/tennis shoes for the outdoor terrain. We may be outdoors in warmer weather, but also in weather as low as 60 degrees (mostly for the very active classes). Keep this in mind. You will also need a beach towel to spread on the ground for laying down, sitting, etc. This will help with any allergies, but it will also act as a visual reminder of 6' physical distancing (10' distancing for dance and movement). You may want to invest in a collapsible camping chair if sitting on the ground is uncomfortable for you. IWU is looking into renting a tent for our use - to be shared with the School of Music. It will help shield the sun and rain. This may be pitched on grass or in the Shirk parking lot. When weather turns too cool we will transition to indoor spaces where physical distance may require us to alter how we deliver some of our curriculum. This could mean that larger classes are split in half - for physical distancing concerns. During your first class meetings, your instructors will let you know how they intend to deliver their courses.

Please keep in mind that the faculty and staff have been working extremely conscientiously to provide all of you the best possible experiences. It is new to all of us and we expect to learn a lot as we move through the fall semester. It will benefit all of

us to apply a measure of good humor and patience when we inevitably encounter a wrinkle.

All of us are responsible for keeping our spaces clean and disinfected. Do not allow this burden to become the job of only a few in each course. We must all take our turns.

Buildings, including McPherson, will have traffic patterns that must be observed. This is for physical distancing and for air flow.

SoTA has adopted COVID protocols for rehearsals that will be followed by everyone involved in a production. These protocols will be explained in detail for each production as the production starts its process.

COVID protocols for classes will be adjusted by the professor - depending upon the content of the work for the class. Be assured that ALL PROTOCOLS have been discussed by faculty and staff. We are taking this very seriously.

There is a CODE OF HONOR, a TITAN PLEDGE, for the entire campus. It follows at the end of this letter. Please read it carefully.

I wish you all safe travels and easy move back to campus. I am eager to see you all!

Jean M. Kerr

Director, School of Theatre Arts

July 24, 2020

TITAN PLEDGE

We find ourselves at a pivotal point in history as our communities, states, countries, and world face an unprecedented pandemic. Illinois Wesleyan University students, faculty, and staff play a critical role in reducing the spread of COVID-19 and in protecting the health and safety of our campus community and the greater Bloomington-Normal area.

By taking the pledge to keep Illinois Wesleyan University in good health, I accept responsibility for myself and my actions and will do my best to prevent the spread of COVID-19. I am aware the success of this plan rests largely on each member of the Titan community living up to this pledge, and I commit to doing my part. I am aware that the decisions I make will affect many others.

Protect Myself

I will...

- Adhere to the University's COVID-19 PCR testing protocols.
- Conduct daily self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19 and report to Arnold Health Services (students) or a healthcare professional (faculty and staff) if I experience a fever of 100.4 F or higher, dry cough, difficulty breathing, muscle aches, abdominal discomfort, or new loss of taste or smell.
- Wash my hands regularly with soap and water or use hand sanitizer and avoid touching my face and eyes.
- Wear my washable cloth face mask while around with others in indoor and outdoor spaces including class, campus activities, work, and meetings.
- Keep my clothing, belongings, personal spaces, and shared common spaces clean.

Protect My Fellow Titans

I will...

- Observe physical distancing between myself and others.
- Stay at home if I feel ill or believe I have been exposed to someone who might have COVID-19.
- Remind other Titans about social distancing practices and wearing their face mask at all times while in public. This will require courage, tact and a commitment to self-advocacy.
- Not assume that others are comfortable meeting in person, riding together in cars, visiting public places etc. and will ask for and respect their preference.

Protect the Community

I will...

- Limit leaving the Titan community (e.g., visiting family/friends on weekends) to decrease my chances of coming into contact with individuals infected with COVID-19.
- Participate in testing and contact tracing when required to preserve the IWU and local community.
- Avoid businesses and gatherings in which mask wearing and physical distancing are not required.
- Limit non-IWU guests on-campus in order to protect those individuals and our community.
- Follow all health and safety directives provided by leadership at IWU.
- Be positive, attentive, and helpful to anyone who might need support.
- Be flexible with our current circumstances understanding that none of us has experienced a pandemic and we are all doing our best.