

Subject: Academic Affairs Bulletin, Monday, 09/07/20

Date: Monday, September 7, 2020 at 11:31:59 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Office of the Provost

To: STAFF-CLASSIFIED-AA-L@LISTSERV.JMU.EDU

Dear Colleagues,

Below are important updates for September 7, 2020

- **Absences.** Due to the volume of requests for absence documentation while students are in quarantine and isolation, the Dean of Students (DoS) Office is temporarily unable to provide notifications to instructors. The DoS Office is revising its process and plans to resume providing documentation by September 14. As stated in the Academic Affairs Bulletin yesterday, you should continue to be flexible and accommodating as the university resolves this issue.
- **Loaner Laptops.** Libraries and IT are partnering to address students' needs for loaner laptops. If you have a student that lacks access to a computer, refer them to either the Libraries live help chat/Ask the Library desks or to the IT help desk and they will be referred to a resource that can help meet their need. Please be aware that the Libraries will go to great lengths to help address student technology limitations and provide paths for support.
- **Updated FAQs:** The AA COVID-19 website site (<https://www.jmu.edu/academic-affairs/covid/index.shtml>) has been updated, and the student and faculty FAQs now include more content related to distance learning. Refer to this site for the latest information on posting course recordings, student privacy, and research and scholarship.
- **Self-Reporting:** All students, including those not living in Harrisonburg, are still required to self-report through the University Health Center website. Please share this information with your students.
- **Faculty as Role Models:** As faculty, you are in a position to be able to encourage student behavior: your students look up to you and respect your expertise and guidance inside and outside the classroom. Please use your position to remind students of their role in holding themselves and each other accountable for the guidelines we have established:
 - Daily compliance to LiveSafe and mask-wearing on campus – these are important strategies for reducing transmission rates among the campus population
 - Calling the UHC with symptoms of COVID or concerns about exposure – this is the single best source of experts to provide accurate information and guidance
 - Avoiding social events and gatherings larger than 10 and/or attending events held by people you don't know – these events are primarily responsible for transmission in the JMU community; don't be a part of the problem
 - Complying to quarantine and isolation restrictions – these are the best tools at our disposal to respond to the COVID infection on our campus, but their positive impact is attenuated when students don't adhere to the rules
 - Holding your friends and peers responsible by reminding them – we're all in this together.

Thank you for the patience and compassion you continue to show your students.

Best wishes,
Heather

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