Good evening,

As you know, the College has been actively monitoring the spread of COVID-19 throughout the country and here in Indiana. As of Tuesday morning, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) updated the total positive cases in Indiana to 6, including cases in Adams, Boone, Hendricks, Marion, and Noble counties.

In order to better protect our community, the following immediate actions are being taken by the College:

- All international travel through or on behalf of the College is suspended for all students, faculty, and staff until further notice.
- All out-of-state travel through or on behalf of the College is suspended for all students and student groups until further notice.
- All out-of-state travel through or on behalf of the College, except to adjacent states, is suspended for all faculty and staff until further notice.
- Gatherings or meetings with less than 100 participants may proceed, but use caution when planning. This could include moving from a buffet lunch to boxed lunches to avoid cross-contamination, providing guidance to attendees on social distancing, and practicing the no-handshake elbow bump.
- Gatherings or meetings of greater than 100 participants will need to seek approval and it is suggested that they are postponed or converted to Zoom whenever possible.  
  - The College’s April 14 College 101 night is postponed at this time.
  - The Student Success Summit will not take place in French Lick on April 16 & 17. We are currently working on alternative plans for either a summit at a later date or a virtual event during those same dates. If you are scheduled to attend the Summit, we ask that you wait for guidance in the very near future that will go to attendees and campus liaisons.
- Commencement ceremonies are still planned as scheduled at this time.
- When scheduling in-state meetings, consider the use of technologies like Zoom to limit non-essential travel. When traveling to such meetings please ensure your presence is in fact required.

These immediate steps will help us to better limit the exposure on our campuses to the SARS-CoV-19 virus. However, I understand that this outbreak and its impacts are not just felt on campus. Just this week we have seen the 2-week closure of Avon Community Schools as a precaution after a presumptive positive was reported in an elementary school. I understand the impact that this has on our students and employees and ask that we all work together to accommodate those impacted directly wherever possible.

Some colleges and universities across the country and here in Indiana have made the decision to move to virtual instruction. Many of these institutions are residential, with a student population returning to campus from Spring Break from across the United States and their home countries. We continually assess our response to COVID-19 through the Ivy Tech lens and will, for the time being, conduct classes as normal on our campuses.
When faculty return from Spring Break, additional guidance will be provided on using technology, providing flexibility in schedules and assignments, and other classroom management items that may need to be used as this situation evolves.

As Indiana grapples with increased reporting of COVID-19, we will continue to work closely with county and state public health officials. The College’s public safety team will be notified directly by ISDH should a student, faculty, staff, or visitor of the College test positive for SARS-CoV-19. We will then work with the local county health department to determine what is prudent and safe for our impacted campus.

As you have seen in the previous Public Safety Advisories, the best thing that we can do to slow the spread of illness is follow sound seasonal health practices:

- Stay away from ill people and stay away from others if you are ill.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your elbow or tissue.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Do not share drinks, food, or utensils.
- Get an annual flu shot through your primary care provider or local clinic.
- Clean and disinfect common touch surfaces frequently.
- Avoid large or crowded events if you feel sick.
- Practice social isolation. Keep a 3 to 6-foot gap between yourself and others while in public.

We have launched a webpage at www.ivytech.edu/covid-19 with additional Ivy Tech specific details and FAQs about the College’s response to COVID-19 along with helpful links to other resources.

This is a very fluid situation and we are committed to doing what is right to keep our faculty, staff, students and community safe. While this novel virus is causing short term havoc in our work and family life, know that we are trying our best to balance the immediate, emerging risks with our responsibility to serve students, employers and our communities effectively. Our public safety team will continue to keep you updated as further information becomes available.

Thank for your patience and understanding as we work through this unexpected situation together.

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