

Subject: Update on HACC's Pandemic Planning – July 9, 2020
Date: Thursday, July 9, 2020 5:33:37 PM

Good afternoon, colleagues!

I recently [re-tweeted](#) a sentiment from a superintendent in Virginia who likened the process of reopening schools for fall to “playing a game of 3-D chess while standing on one leg in the middle of a hurricane.” Our process for welcoming students and preparing for the fall 2020 semester looks unlike anything we have seen in the past. I am confident in the decisions we have made, and I am confident in our ability to provide a stellar experience for our students this fall. I **THANK YOU all** for making the best of this situation, always keeping our students at the forefront and pivoting quickly when needed.

As you have come to expect, following are the commonly asked questions and our responses to them. Please note that some of these responses are tentative and subject to change.

If you have additional questions and you do not see the answers on the website, please submit the online form located on the website. Please see the webpage section called “[Information for Employees](#).” If you would like to see the information being communicated to students, please see the webpage called “[Information for Students](#).”

We will continue to update you regularly via email, the aforementioned website and Zoom sessions.

Thank you!

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Pronouns: He, Him, His
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- 1. I am concerned with my F1 visa since I got an email from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that says as an international student I cannot take just online classes or I will lose my visa and have to return to my country. They informed me that I have to attend on campus so as not to lose my visa. I need help, please.**

The College is also concerned with the status of our international students. We are still researching guidelines, reaching out to international students and seeking advice from officials to be able to provide students with accurate advice. We hope to have more details next week. Students are encouraged to direct specific questions to iadmissn@hacc.edu.

International students are valued members of our teaching and learning community for the cultural and intellectual contributions they make to the educational processes at HACC. We at HACC celebrate the diversity they bring to our classrooms and beyond.

- 2. With the campuses closed for the fall 2020 semester, will we still have athletics?**
HACC has made the decision to suspend all [athletic programs](#) for the fall 2020

semester as a result of the pandemic.

Protecting the health and safety of HACC students and employees continues to be our top priority. This decision was made based on careful consideration of the current situation and the potential risks posed by COVID-19. As noted, HACC [campuses will be closed](#) through Dec. 31, 2020. Therefore, we are not able to offer the facilities for athletic practices and events.

We know this decision may be disappointing for students who were looking forward to playing at HACC during the fall 2020 semester. We will continue to promote activities that students can access remotely to remain connected and engaged during the fall 2020 semester.

3. When do I have to wear a mask on campus?

For the best mitigation to prevent the spread of COVID-19, anyone on a HACC campus must wear a mask at all times. Please see [this webpage](#) for additional information.

4. When do I have to wear gloves on campus?

Gloves are not necessary for day-to-day activities. Masks and rigorous, frequent handwashing are the best defenses. Please [see this webpage](#) for additional information, and/or ask your instructor or supervisor if gloves are needed for specific activities.

5. Thinking of different ways to stay safe and “hands free,” have we looked into installing [these](#) or something similar on doors in high traffic/high-touch areas?

We continue to determine the safety needs of the College community. This will be added to the list of products to review. Thank you for the suggestion.

6. Adjunct faculty who collect a public pension through SERS or PSERS are generally not permitted to teach at HACC because they cannot collect a pension and collect a paycheck from a state-subsidized organization. How then can professors retire and return to teach?

NOTE: This response updates the response that was issued in Dr. Ski's [July 7 email](#).

Under the State Employees' Retirement System (SERS), if the retiree is collecting their pension, they cannot work at HACC. Under some specific conditions, an emergency 95-day rehire may be requested through the Office of Human Resources and approved by SERS. This is only if the department can show documented proof that they attempted every avenue to hire someone other than the retiree.

Under the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS), if the retiree is collecting their pension, they can work at HACC if they enroll in and contribute to a TIAA supplemental account.

Quote: “Every sincere act of kindness helps to make the world a little better place. We need more kindness, caring and tolerance in our world. Please take a moment to be kind to someone.”

~Unknown