



ELMIRA COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 7, 2020

Dear EC Community,

As you know, we completed on-campus testing last Thursday, October 1, for students and essential employees currently on campus. While we are still waiting for a few test results, the majority of results received (approximately 83%) were returned as negative. This is a good sign, but we must proceed with caution.

Those students currently in isolation or quarantine must remain in isolation/quarantine until they are cleared through the Clarke Health Center.

With the testing completed last week, we hit the 5 percent threshold, set by Governor Cuomo, on Thursday, October 1. This means the College must conduct online learning for two weeks from that point and until the number of cases falls below the 5% threshold and the local Health Department deems it appropriate to return to in-person classes. **As of today, an exact date for return to in-person is not known, but classes will remain online through October 16.**

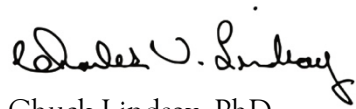
The College's Emergency Management Committee is in daily contact with the Health Department and will work with them to establish a target date for resuming in-person classes and a plan to transition back to in-person classes safely. That plan will include a timeline, testing frequency, move-in for those students not currently on campus, and student conduct expectations. Updates will be shared and posted to [MyEC](#) once confirmed. **In order to achieve the targets needed to return to in-person classes, everyone must do their part to abide by the COVID-19 protocols set by the College and the County.**

Given the uncertainty of the exact date for a return to in-person instruction, **classes are now scheduled for Thursday, October 29 and Friday, October 30.** The remainder of the [Term I calendar](#) remains the same with in-person classes concluding on Friday, November 20 and students leaving for the remainder of the Fall 2020 term by November 22. Final exams will occur online November 30-December 5.

As we make plans for 2021, the spring term calendar is likely to look very similar to this fall as we await the approval and distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine that may allow a return to a modified normal. **To that end, students will have an EXTENDED six-week winter break this year, with online exams ending December 5 and Term II classes beginning on Tuesday, January 19.** A revised Term II academic calendar will be shared in the coming weeks.

I want to reiterate that it will take everyone doing their part to follow COVID-19 protocols to help ensure EC is able to offer in-person classes this academic year. While we appear to be over the current hump, without smart choices and actions, we could easily end up back in this position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Lindsay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "C" and a flourish at the end.

Chuck Lindsay, PhD

President