



ELMIRA COLLEGE

OFFICE OF RESIDENCE LIFE

November 10, 2020

Dear Students,

For colleges and universities across the country, navigating the coronavirus pandemic is a new and unprecedented experience, with unpredictable situations and little control. However, the primary priority for Elmira College remains the continuous care of our students and making decisions that promote the safety of the campus community. Since many of these decisions are influenced or mandated by New York State, the Chemung County Health Department (CCHD) and/or the County Executive, they are necessary and done with the best intentions.

The College acknowledges that the coronavirus pandemic has greatly affected our students and their families, both personally and financially. We would like to help by applying a one-time housing credit of \$1,500 to Term II for all residential students. Please note that only residential students returning to live on campus for Term II will receive this housing credit. There is nothing that you need to do, this credit will automatically be applied to all Term II bills for all residential students.

At this time, we anticipate that we will be able to return to in-person classes for Term II, which begins on January 19. The Clarke Health Center now has the ability to provide rapid COVID-19 testing, and we will perform weekly testing on a random sample of all members of our campus community. At this time, we are unsure of whether all students will need to return to campus with negative test results or if we will be testing all students upon their return in January. That decision will be made in conjunction with the CCHD as we get closer to January, and will depend on State and County pandemic guidelines that are in place at the time.

The College will continue to operate under the regulations of New York State and Chemung County. Intercollegiate athletics will continue to follow all guidelines established by the athletics governing organizations, including the NCAA and National Cheer Association. Testing and surveillance protocols are in place for teams to practice under whatever levels the State and County allow at the time.

There are still many questions and uncertainties surrounding athletics, especially regarding competition. The Empire 8, UCHC, and UVC continue to discuss and work through the challenges member schools face in order to compete under NCAA guidelines for the winter season. EC, like many of our member schools, has yet to acquire adequate testing equipment to meet NCAA guidelines and to travel to different campuses and regions in the state to compete.

While we cannot ensure that NCAA teams will be able to compete for the winter seasons, we hope that some competition will be allowed to start in 2021. We will continue to provide updates as conditions with the conference, state, and region continue to evolve.

As we look towards Term II, we are also reimagining student events to offer more frequent, student-centered programming virtually, in-person, and through residence life. A brief questionnaire will be distributed to students to get feedback on event ideas. Stay tuned for a Term II calendar of social events designed to develop, entertain, and engage students. We think you'll be excited to see some new, fresh engagement opportunities.

I encourage you to watch your email throughout the upcoming Holiday Break for important updates from the College. As we have seen, many of the coronavirus guidelines, rules, and restrictions can change rapidly and it's important to know how these changes may affect your return travel.

I wish you and your families a safe, healthy, and restful Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,
Liz

Dr. Elizabeth Lambert
Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Life