Hello Master of Nursing students!

We are four weeks from the start of the semester and we truly hope that you are having a good summer, even in times that none of us ever imagined. We look forward to beginning the fall semester with you and want to share additional information to help you plan for fall semester.

**Preparation for Practicum Experiences**

First, we want to celebrate that the majority of our health care organizations are having students return in the fall. You have received or will be receiving soon information about your practicum rotations for Nurs 5190. Prior to the start date of your practicum rotation in mid October, you will complete a required online and in-person training on infection control and prevention practices. Information will be sent to you by Dr. Carol Flaten. You will also get specific information about your practicum course from your clinical instructor.

**Clinical badges.** You will begin your first practicum rotation this fall semester and will need to have a UMN School of Nursing Clinical Badge to wear in the practicum settings. These badges are going to be mailed to you. Therefore, we need to ensure that we have your correct mailing address.

**ACTION NEEDED:** Please visit your Personal Information section in MyU to double check that your mailing address is accurate. [https://onestop.umn.edu/personal-information/update-your-information](https://onestop.umn.edu/personal-information/update-your-information)

Note that you may have two addresses listed (home and mailing). The School of Nursing will use your *Mailing Address*.

**NURS 5029 Introduction to Nursing Interventions**

This is the only nursing course where you need to come to campus every other week. On the weeks you are not on campus, you will meet virtually via Zoom at the time the course is scheduled. Information about the weeks you need to be on campus for this course will be sent out to you the week of August 24. You have received or will be receiving soon information about picking up a lab kit.

**Nursing Courses you are enrolled in**

The week before the semester begins, you will be getting communication from the faculty teaching the courses you are enrolled in. They will inform you about how the virtual class sessions will be set up. The Canvas course site will provide you with all the details you need to attend class remotely.

**Welcome to the Profession**

We look forward to welcoming our BSN sophomore and Master of Nursing students to the nursing profession on September 11 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. This virtual event formally recognizes your entry into the nursing profession. More details will follow but be sure to save the date and time.
**Protecting yourselves and others**

As you prepare to **return to campus** and the clinical settings, we ask that you be mindful of actions you can take to minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure to yourself and to others. You will be with your student peers, faculty, health care workers and patients during the semester.

When you are in the clinical setting, you will be practicing strict infection control procedures (hand hygiene) and wearing personal protective equipment (surgical face mask, face shield, gloves). You will be asked to always wear a clean scrub uniform and wear the same shoes to the clinical setting. Particularly if you take public transportation to the clinical site, you might want to change out of your scrubs into other clothing prior to leaving the clinical site.

In partnership with our practicum sites, you will not knowingly be assigned to a patient diagnosed with COVID-19 or a Person Under Investigation (PUI).

Prior to the start of each clinical day or prior to entering the Bentson Center, you will be asked to complete information attesting to no COVID-19 symptoms or fever. If you have symptoms, have been exposed to someone who has had symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19, you will not be able to be in the clinical setting. Your faculty and program director will provide you with further guidance if that would be the case.

According to data from the Minnesota Department of Health, more health care workers are testing positive for COVID-19 through exposure in social settings or their households, rather than their work settings. Given that non-work exposures can lead to infection as often, or even more often, than exposures experienced in the healthcare setting, taking personal action to minimize your exposure is very important. As a reminder, the State of Minnesota and the University of Minnesota has a [mandatory mask policy](#) that everyone must follow. We also know that using 6 foot physical distancing as a means to minimize exposure is strongly recommended.

**Office of Student and Career Advancement Services**

The Office of Student and Career Advancement Services (OSCAS) will continue to provide services and support remotely. To lessen the risk of COVID exposure to staff and students, all OSCAS staff will not be physically on campus through the fall semester unless specifically requested or needed, but will continue to be available to help support and assist however and wherever you are.

The Office of Student and Career Advancement Services (OSCAS) will continue to provide services and support remotely. Shannon Dahl, Assistant Director/Prelicensure Programs Coordinator and your staff/academic advisor will continue to provide meetings and appointments via Zoom or phone. All other services and programs will continue to be online and have remote access through the fall semester. To lessen the risk of COVID exposure to staff and students, all OSCAS staff will not be physically on campus through the fall semester unless specifically requested or needed, but will continue to be available to help support and assist however and wherever you are.

**Anti-racism and Social Justice**

The School of Nursing is deeply committed to actions that address anti-racism and social justice. We believe our actions must be informed by our own identities, experiences and
understanding of institutional racism, inequities and social injustices. You are invited to begin or continue your personal journey by taking advantage of these resources.