Hello PhD 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.

**Protecting yourselves and others**

As you prepare to [return to campus](#) and in settings where you may be conducting your research or working as a research assistant, 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 may be with your student peers, faculty, health care workers and patients during the semester.

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. The School of Nursing will be providing each student 2 cloth masks at the start of the semester. We also know that using 6 foot physical distancing as a means to minimize exposure is strongly recommended.

**Fall semester courses**

All PhD nursing courses, except for N8173, will be taken remotely. These remote delivered courses will include meeting as a class at the time the class is scheduled to meet using Zoom. Faculty may also choose to have some asynchronous learning activities (e.g. online discussions, activities, or assignments).

For those students enrolled in N8173, the class will meet weekly in the Health Sciences Education Center classroom (2-101AB) with the option to connect using Zoom. If you come to campus for the in person class time, there will be strict adherence to 6 foot physical distancing, wearing a mask, hand hygiene and cleaning surfaces in the classroom before and at the end of class. Please contact Dr. Barb McMorris (mcmo0023@umn.edu) with your questions.

**Office of Student and Career Advancement Services**

The [Office of Student and Career Advancement Services (OSCAS)](#) will continue to provide services and support remotely. Alicia George, Assistant Director/Doctoral Programs Coordinator and your staff/procedural 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.