



June 5, 2020

Dear Members of the Faculty and Staff,

We are preparing to implement a number of steps to reopen our campus gradually this summer in light of Governor Wolf's decision to move Lackawanna County to the "yellow phase" on Friday, June 5. Assuming that incidents of COVID-19 continue to decline, Lackawanna County could move into the green phase before the end of June.

Jeff Gingerich, Ph.D., Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, will be writing you shortly with more detailed information about plans for campus in the yellow and green phases this summer.

As Dr. Gingerich shares this additional information, we know that there will still be a number of questions not yet addressed about the fall. On Tuesday, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania released preliminary information to guide the reopening of higher education institutions. We have awaited this information as an essential piece of our planning to resume campus-based instruction in August.

The Fall Planning Committee subgroups accomplished much in the past few weeks and are now preparing final reports that Cabinet and I will use, with the newly released preliminary state guidelines, to make key fall decisions. We will then share these decisions with the campus community.

Even after decisions are announced, there will still be considerable operational planning to be done across campus. By early July, I expect to share our completed final plan to reopen campus. In the meantime, I ask for your continued patience and cooperation as we take necessary steps to reopen campus with care and complete our fall planning.

Sincerely,

Scott R. Pilarz, S.J.  
President