



# Lincoln University

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## Office of the President

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August 3, 2020

Dear Lincoln Community,

Faculty, students, and staff have been working since May to devise plans for bringing our students back for in-person classes in the fall. The health and safety of the Lincoln community have been the primary driver of our decision-making process. In early June, when we announced our decision to bring students back, COVID-19 cases were on the decline across the country, and we were working to secure access to the testing needed to monitor any COVID-19 threats on our campus.

The course of the pandemic has changed significantly since that decision. The transmission of COVID-19 has entered a second wave and unlike the original spread, current cases are more prolific and deadly among young adults. New cases in many areas have risen to levels not seen since April and May and death rates are once again on the rise. Some of the recent COVID-19 hotspots are in areas connected to our Lincoln University family. We have also learned more about the spread of the virus indoors, the role of asymptomatic cases in the spread, and the possibility that immunity after illness may be of limited duration has also evolved. This new information points to the need to greatly reduce density in shared spaces. We, therefore, believe that it will be prudent to reduce our fall on-campus population to 50% or less so that every student in-residence can have a single bedroom.

As a result, we have come to the very difficult decision to bring back a smaller number of students for on-campus residence. All other students will complete their fall semester remotely.

Considerations that might qualify a student to return to campus include the following:

Permission will be automatically granted	
Category 1	New first-year students
Students must apply to live on campus	
Category 2	International students who need to return to campus
Category 3	Students with specific basic needs that are not met at home, such as secure housing and food. (Students with other concerns may share their situation for consideration. We are limiting the number of students on campus, but we will review on a case by case basis.)
A faculty member will be in touch	
Category 4	Special academic projects that cannot be postponed or done remotely—on request of faculty member-only, including upper-division nursing majors.
Category 5	Student workers performing essential functions as approved by the Division of

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Student Success
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Please complete [this form](#) if you fall into category two or three. Your faculty member or supervisor will be in touch with you if you are included in category four or five.

### Change in Move-In Date

We planned to test all students upon their return to campus to give us a baseline on the virus towards creating a COVID-19 free start to the semester. All was on track for the reopening even the great fortune of being included in the testing program offered to Historically Black Colleges by *Testing for America*. However, on Friday, July 31, 2020, we confirmed that test kits for Lincoln University will not be available until the week of August 17, 2020. The delay in testing kits necessitates that we delay move-in. Accordingly, the following move-in schedule has been devised:

1. New First-Year Students (Saturday, August 22, 2020)
2. International students who need to return to campus (permission will be automatically granted) (Sunday, August 23, 2020)
3. Students with specific basic needs that are not met at home, such as secure housing and food. (Sunday, August 23, 2020)
4. Special academic projects (primarily seniors) that cannot be postponed or done remotely—on request of faculty member-only, including upper-division nursing majors. (Sunday, August 23, 2020)
5. Student workers performing essential functions as approved by the Division of Student Success. (Wednesday, August 19, 2020)

Further correspondence will be shared in the next few days detailing campus move-in requirements.

### **PLEASE NOTE THAT CLASSES WILL BEGIN AS SCHEDULED ON AUGUST 17, 2020 USING REMOTE TECHNOLOGY FOR ALL STUDENTS**

I know you will have many questions. I along with key members of the senior team will hold open Zoom sessions as follows—more information to follow:

- 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 4, 2020. This session will be for new students and parents.
- 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 5, 2020. This session is for student workers.
- 5:00 p.m., Thursday, August 6, 2020. This session is for continuing students and parents.
- 5:00 p.m., Friday, August 7, 2020. This session is for all continuing students and parents.

**The academic experience**

Classes will begin remotely for all on Aug. 17th. In the spring, we were forced to move from in-person to remote learning during a two-week period. Because we knew that we could be forced to go online at any moment in the fall, our faculty have been designing their courses with that reality in mind. As a result, we know our students will have a robust academic experience that is highly individualized and tailored to our usual liberal-arts curriculum. Please refer to the catalog for any changes to course offerings for the fall.

**Finance**

We know many of our families have been impacted by the pandemic, and, in recognition of that fact, we decided this spring to hold tuition, room, and board steady for this year. We made this decision even though we have had to incur increased costs to allow us to respond to this crisis and to provide a strong remote experience. The fall academic experience, while different, will feature the same expert faculty and the same small class sizes, and it will contribute credit to the same Lincoln degree. While many online programs are less rigorous, our approach will maintain rigor and the close student-faculty relationship that characterizes a Lincoln education. Students studying via remote only will be charged the Lincoln University Commuter tuition and fee rate.

If your family has experienced a financial impact due to the pandemic, please reach out to the financial aid department.

**In Closing**

While I know that many students will be disappointed by this change of events, protecting the health and safety of the entire Lincoln community remains paramount. As progress is made on the treatment and vaccine front, we hope that the Spring semester will welcome all students back to campus. Should we find ourselves still amid this deadly pandemic, we will ensure that those who have to study remotely this fall will have priority for in-residence status in the spring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B A A', written in a cursive style.

Brenda A. Allen