



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
Bureau for Public Health
Commissioner's Office

Bill J. Crouch
Cabinet Secretary

Ayne Amjad, MD, MPH
Commissioner & State Health Officer

September 24, 2020

Dear Presidents,

Thank you for your continued hard work and the coordinated efforts with the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), Bureau for Public Health, the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) and the local health departments to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on your campuses and in our communities. These are difficult and frustrating times for all of us, but we must continue to be vigilant in our joint measures to control the spread of the virus.

On behalf of DHHR and Governor Jim Justice, we appreciate your cooperation. The comprehensive testing we conducted prior to the return of students to campus has helped to give us a baseline and, I believe, prevented some early spread of COVID-19 on your campuses. Now that the semester has begun and we are seeing localized instances at our colleges, it is important we continue to monitor your campus populations to prevent further spread.

Per the Governor's directive and with your assistance, starting as soon as possible, we will be conducting surveillance testing of 10% of the on-campus student, faculty, and staff at all college campuses in West Virginia. The State is providing the resources for these tests and lab analysis.

Surveillance testing is part of our mitigation efforts to keep our campus communities and the communities in which they are embedded safe. Your local health departments along with the West Virginia National Guard and multiple other partners, will be aiding in this endeavor.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ayne Amjad".

Ayne Amjad, MD, MPH
State Health Officer and Commissioner