



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 2, 2020

Dear CBU Community:

Exactly one year ago, October 2, 2019, we spent a day together as a community doing what we do so well here at CBU – serving others. As part of our Inaugural Week Celebration, we planted trees and cleaned flower beds around campus, lined up to give blood, and wrote thank you notes to the donors and alumni whose support is so important to our legacy and our future. And then, after all our hard work, we celebrated with a cannonball contest in the Canale Pool, digging for treasure in the sand volleyball court, and a lovely evening of socializing over dinner on Nolan Field.

In conversations with many of you, I have discussed how our sense of time seems a little off these days. That week of reflection leading up to our shared moment of renewal and commitment to our Lasallian mission seems like both just yesterday and a very long time ago. While that may be expected under the normal circumstances of our busy lives, it is especially true as the pandemic continues to alter how we do nearly everything in life. Our pool had to remain closed all summer, our SOS service events were mostly virtual this year, and although we were able to enjoy an al fresco dinner together on Wednesday as part of our Fall Concert Series, we did so while socially distanced and masked up as soon as we finished eating. Despite how different things are today, I continue to take comfort in and be humbled by your dedication to our community.

Most of you are abiding by the guidelines and protocols we have agreed to in [The CBU Compact](#). Day in and day out, you are thinking of each other as you modify your behaviors and make the many sacrifices that come with those changes. As we conclude our seventh week of instruction at CBU, I am thankful for your continued diligence in putting the safety of others first.

Unfortunately, I am also deeply dismayed at the reports of a small number of community members who are not abiding by our shared protocols. Let me be clear, mask wearing and social distancing are not merely suggestions; they are requirements at CBU. As a community, we agreed to these behaviors in the interest of everyone's health and well-being. We are all responsible for each other and when even a small number of us fail to practice COVID-19 mitigation protocols, we are all impacted.

For this reason, effectively immediately, we will be instituting the following policies and corresponding sanctions to protect our campus community. As stated in [The CBU Compact](#) to which we have all agreed, "As the public health crisis evolves, we will evolve too and provide updated guidelines should they become necessary." At this time, we have deemed the following additional guidelines as necessary to protect the well-being of our Lasallian community.

Students found to be in violation in any of the policies below or those found in [The CBU Compact](#) may be subject to University sanctions which may include a suspension from campus housing, loss of a CBU-provided academic or athletic

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scholarship, loss of the ability to compete in intercollegiate athletics, academic suspension or removal from in-person instruction with no guarantee of remote learning availability, or permanent dismissal from Christian Brothers University.

Since this Monday, September 28, there has been a moratorium on all athletic team practices, training sessions, and study halls. This prohibition will remain in effect through at least Sunday, October 11. The moratorium may be extended as needed, and it includes both formal and informal team workouts or practices organized by team coaches or players either on- or off-campus.

Student-athletes may continue to complete prescribed rehab under the direction of CBU athletic trainers, but only one student-athlete may be in the training facilities at any given time.

As stated in the [Fall 2020 Registered Student Organization \(RSO\) Event Guidelines](#): “The University will not authorize any off-campus RSO event until further notice.” Until further notice, this guideline is enhanced as follows: All off-campus events and gatherings of CBU students are prohibited in the interest of public health. This includes formal and informal, unannounced events and gatherings organized by RSOs, athletic teams, and individual students.

Any student found to host or attend a prohibited off-campus student gathering may be subject to University sanctions.

All on-campus events hosted by a CBU RSO must be submitted for review and approval by the Vice President for Student Development and Campus Life in accordance with the [Fall 2020 Registered Student Organization Event Guidelines](#) distributed at the beginning of the semester. Attendees at all on-campus events must wear masks and practice safe social distance or risk University sanctions. Unapproved on-campus social gatherings organized by RSOs or individual students are prohibited.

As stated in [The CBU Compact](#), all students are prohibited from visiting any residential room, apartment, or suite on campus other than their assigned space.

All CBU community members must continue to wear masks and practice social distancing at all times when in the presence of others. This includes time spent traveling with others in vehicles; studying, working, or socializing outside one’s private room or office; and while outdoors on campus walking between buildings or enjoying recreation options. Students found to be in violation of CBU’s mask and social distance requirements may be subject to University sanctions.

These protocols and sanctions have been established to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the CBU community. Students facing any sanctions will be notified by Student Development and Campus Life as to the process of review and evaluation. This process will resemble any other issue of student conduct but may be adjusted as necessary in the interest of the community’s health and well-being.



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Let me now turn to the data presented below.

I know you are all watching our daily data reports on our COVID-19 dashboard, and you are concerned by the rising numbers in some areas. As I reported in last week's message, we do have positive cases and even clusters on campus. We expected to have cases and prepared for that inevitability. Thankfully, we remain at a manageable level of positive cases with current data reflecting 22 positive cases in the past 7 days. All of those students are currently in isolation either at home with their families or in designated on-campus housing away from other students, faculty, and staff.

The more difficult number to manage is our student population in quarantine. Operating out of an abundance of caution, we have chosen to "over-quarantine". Let me explain. CDC and Health Department guidelines state that quarantine is required for anyone who has come into "close contact" with any person who might be COVID-19 positive. At issue is how to define "close contact." In fact, you may have read an article in today's issue of [*Inside Higher Ed*](#) outlining how the definition of "close contact" varies from state to state and even campus to campus.

Here at CBU, we have chosen to err on the side of caution and quarantine as broadly as possible. For example, as explained last week, we have taken the step of testing and quarantining all members of an academic class found to be exposed to an identified "cluster" of two positive individuals. Thankfully, none of these individuals have experienced COVID-19 symptoms nor have they received positive test results. Similarly, where we believe we may have a cluster present in an athletic team, we are testing and quarantining all members of the impacted team. These steps are often above and beyond the directives we have received from the Shelby County Health Department, but we believe it is in the best interest of everyone on campus if we operate with extra vigilance.

To be sure, these additional safety measures of testing and quarantining are placing an extra burden on members of our Student Development and Campus Life team as well as our Academic Services team and the faculty responsible for providing high-quality online instruction for our quarantined students. I thank all of you for your continued dedication to our students and both their health and academic success. I also thank our students for your diligence in continuing your hard work in your courses as your health allows even while isolated or quarantined. Your efforts do not go unnoticed.

While we all see that many universities have chosen to remain in or pivot to a fully remote format for a short time period or even the full fall semester, we do not want to have to take that step. From the time we were considering our options for Fall 2020, many of you have expressed your strong desire to pursue as much in-person instruction and on-campus housing options as we could safely manage. With a lot of creative innovation and careful strategic planning, we found what I still believe to be the right blend of in-person instruction and activities with remote courses and events. Our hybrid approach may not be right for others, but it was – and remains – the right plan for CBU.

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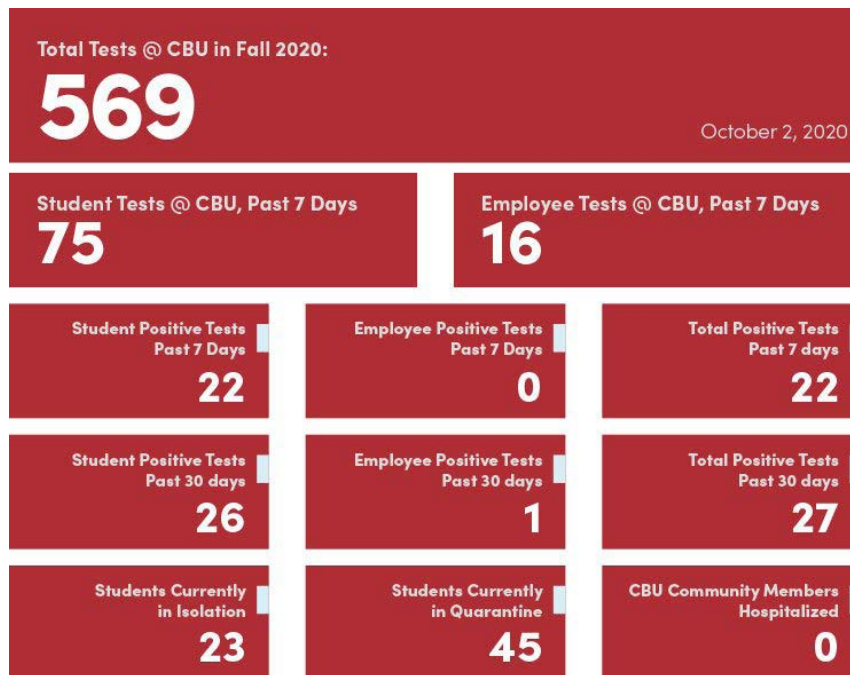
The key, however, is to make sure we can continue safely. Most of you are taking the necessary steps to help us do so. The additional policies we are enacting today are intended to remind everyone that it is your responsibility to keep our community safe. Your actions impact all of us, and as Lasallians, I expect you to act in accordance with our value of respect for all persons. Wear your masks, practice safe social distancing, and take seriously the necessary precautions we must all take to keep our Fall 2020 semester progressing safely.

Together and by association,

Jack Shannon

President of Christian Brothers University

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS UNIVERSITY COVID-19 UPDATE: October 2, 2020



Additional Clarification:

- **Total testing** includes both symptomatic and randomized testing done on the CBU campus since August 17, 2020 as



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well as required NCAA testing for student athletes. It encompasses tests performed on both students and employees.

- **Isolation** is used to separate people infected with the virus (those who are sick with COVID-19 and those with no symptoms) from people who are not infected. All students currently in isolation are following CDC and local health authority guidelines to remain separated from others. Isolation periods will be at least 10 days per CDC guidelines but may be longer if the community member is still experiencing symptoms at the end of that period.
- **Quarantine** is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others and, per CDC-issued protocols, quarantine is also required for international students who have recently traveled to the United States.
- **Positive test results** include both tests administered by CBU and our healthcare partners and self-reported results from CBU students and employees. All members of the CBU community who test positive are immediately directed to complete the practices of isolation as outlined by the CDC and local health authorities.
- Should a CBU community member require a COVID-19 test due to close contact or demonstrated symptoms and elect not to provide those test results to the University, they will be required to remain off campus during Fall 2020. As stated in The CBU Compact:
 - “All [CBU community members] are prohibited from creating a health or safety hazard on the University campus. CBU may request or require [a community member] to leave the campus if they pose a health or safety risk for community members.”
 - “I will participate in COVID-19 testing as requested and will undertake daily wellness checks as mandated by the University.”

Read More:

- [Prevention and Screening Activities: Quarantine and Self-Isolation Guidelines and Contact Tracing](#)
- [COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- [The CBU Compact](#)