

Dear Bryn Mawr Undergraduate, Graduate, and Post-Baccalaureate Students,

In the last few weeks, we have had the opportunity to hear from a number of you, spanning all class years and academic programs, about the coming semester. Whether you've elected to remain at home, or must stay home because of travel restrictions, or are planning to return to campus, we hear your excitement about being "back at school" and finding interesting courses, connecting with faculty, working on your thesis or research, trying a new language, making friends. And we are among the many persons at Bryn Mawr who have been working very hard all summer to create the conditions that will make studying on campus or wherever you are a "Bryn Mawr experience."

We also recognize that some of you have worries about being back on campus or how it will be to learn remotely. Our faculty have been working all summer to revise their courses to teach in new ways. The college has invested in new technology, our Registrar redesigned the class schedule, our facilities personnel have assessed every campus building and meeting space and, where possible, made changes to air filtration and ventilation, and revised room occupancies to support physical distancing. Our deans and directors have been advising students, conducting dorm Room Draw, planning for on-line orientations, and training student leaders, accomplishing all this on Zoom. We have welcomed a new medical director to the Health and Wellness Center and have increased our medical and mental health tele-health support systems for all students. We are planning new ways to conduct office hours, drop-in groups, social activities, and labs.

That said, we are preparing in uncertain and changing circumstances. We expect that Covid-19 will come to campus this semester given its prevalence in the population at large. However, in this pandemic, our ability to remain in operation depends on how well our community adheres to preventive measures and how we respond to incidents of Covid-19 infection when they happen. We have a strong mitigation plan that uses interlocking elements of screening, quarantine, testing, contact tracing, new rules for use of facilities, and behavioral expectations for individuals. This is the most important piece of the plan: in this pandemic, everyone has a role in protecting themselves and the community. All faculty and staff have already signed an [agreement](#) to abide by Covid-19 prevention measures as we have prepared the campus for re-opening. All students must also abide by these measures. We have plans in place to monitor the campus through testing and behavioral auditing (e.g., noticing whether people are complying with preventive measures).

If you are returning to campus, you will see signs posted outdoors and inside buildings which will remind you of health and safety practices and also provide instructions about room capacities and how to safely use common spaces (such as bathrooms, labs, tea pantries and laundries). In every dorm there will be conversations with students about these expectations and what is needed from each other to maintain a relatively comfortable living environment.

We are sharing with you a document that makes it more clear what we are asking and expecting everyone in the community to do. The Student Expectations for Fall 2020 document

outlines the particulars for all students. Many of the expectations concern on campus and communal living, but we are asking all students – including commuters - who are enrolled in courses at Bryn Mawr this semester to (electronically) affirm below that you've read it and will abide by it. Please also refer to the Covid-19 information available on the College website for more comprehensive information. GSAS students, please note that the requirements for quarantine and testing are required only for students enrolled in classes and those who will be in classrooms serving as teaching assistants.

Under ordinary circumstances, we are not so prescriptive about what people can do or not do in the Bryn Mawr community. But this pandemic is extraordinary. It cannot be stressed enough how vitally important the cooperation of every member of the Bryn Mawr community is to maintaining our ability to conduct classes and other activities as we hope. This applies to students living on campus as well as students commuting from nearby.

If you are planning to live on campus and feel that this environment will not be suitable for you or that you don't think you can comply with these expectations, I hope you will reconsider plans to return. There is still time for you to decide to study remotely or to take a personal leave. We want every student who plans to join the campus community to be committed not only to their own health and wellbeing but to the health of everyone around them.

Please review the documents and undergraduate and post-bac students should affirm that you've read and will abide by the [Student Health Expectations](#) on the attached form by August 20th; we acknowledge here that GSAS students have already completed the electronic Return to Campus Agreement. This semester will be like none other. We will have challenges, but we have faith that we can work together as a community to stay healthy and also engage in the deep process of learning and discovery that is characteristic of Bryn Mawr education.

Best wishes,

Sharon Burgmayer
Dean of Graduate Studies

Tim Harte
Provost

Jennifer Walters
Dean of the Undergraduate College