At the beginning of May, I charged the Forward to Fall Committee, asking them to help us develop plans for the Fall 2020 semester and to do so in a way that brought a deep understanding of our educational mission together with the real expertise in safety culture that is at the heart of how, on a daily basis, we engage in research across our campus. The Forward to Fall Committee has been chaired by Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development Bob Wilhelm and Senior Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Undergraduate Education Amy Goodburn; its members include college leaders, campus safety and facility experts, faculty with leading research expertise in key areas of public health, safety and supply chain management, and student leaders. Over the past six weeks, the Forward to Fall Committee has consulted and collaborated with existing work groups and stakeholders across campus, including the COVID-19 Task Force, the Academic Task Force Workgroup, the Academic Solutions Council, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, deans and department chairs, and student leaders, among others. They have also been engaged in ongoing conversations with the Lincoln-Lancaster County Public Health Department, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the governor’s office, and state public health officials, as well as with our peer institutions within the Big 10 and across the country.

The committee’s work has been focused on a number of important decisions, which we have announced as they have become available over the past month, including recommendations about the Fall Calendar, the supplemental Fall 2020 Mini-Sessions, and the Principles and Guidelines for Alternative Work Arrangements. Today, I am pleased to share the Forward to Fall Guiding Framework, which brings together recommendations that will shape how we will work, teach, and learn together in the fall. These recommendations include operational and facilities information, cleaning protocols, safety practices, classroom and technology updates, remote and flexible work policies, information about student living, testing protocols and health and wellness resources, campus travel, and events, among others. The committee and the many groups and individuals, across every department and in every part of campus, that have been engaged in this work have brought a great deal of wisdom and expertise to bear on the many hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of decisions that are going into the planning for the coming year. I very much appreciate the wisdom, foresight, and expertise of the community that is emerging through this process. That said, we learn more each day and, as we do, we will continue to fold new information, and new decisions, into our Framework.

Ronnie D. Green
Chancellor
The UNL Forward to Fall Committee (F2F) (see covid19.unl.edu/#covid19_taskforce) was charged by Chancellor Green to identify, itemize, assign and collate the many tasks associated with making our fall semester, and beyond, as successful as possible by creating a culture of safety and health across our campuses in the context of COVID-19. F2F is consulting and collaborating with other COVID-19 Task Force groups — including the Academic, Budget Advisory, International, Research, and Student Affairs Committees — to develop and communicate clear and consistent guidance, policies, and practices for the community as a whole and for campus leaders to implement. Collectively, the COVID-19 committees are tackling a variety of topics related to ensuring a successful return for the fall 2020 semester.

The F2F committee is relying upon several guiding documents to support its work, including the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s “Higher Education Pandemic Recovery Guide,” the American College Health Association’s “Considerations for Reopening Institutions of Higher Education in the COVID-19 Era,” the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s “Considerations for Institutes of Higher Education,” and consultation with state and local agencies such as the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department. The committee has also reviewed plans and white papers from other universities across the country.

The Forward to Fall Guiding Framework reflects the UNL commitment to emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic in a strong position to pursue our missions in teaching, research, and service. It also reflects the high value that we place on all of our employees, as they are essential to our mission and integral to our community. These recommendations may be updated as we move forward and as conditions change.

The F2F committee began by developing a set of guiding principles to inform their collective work.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

Utilize current health and safety information for all recommendations

- Always consider the university’s three missions—education, research, and extension
- Prioritize in-person instruction, research, and engagement whenever safety conditions make that possible
- Ensure a high quality educational experience
- Protect student progress and time to degree while maintaining academic standards
- Ensure equity for students, faculty, and staff
- Preserve integrity of shared governance through ongoing consultation and collaboration with other COVID-19 groups, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, and campus stakeholders
- Plan for multiple scenarios to be responsive to uncertain and changing conditions
- Communicate all decisions clearly and transparently in ways that inform and educate
- Emphasize behaviors that respect and support health and safety of all UNL community members and of the larger communities of which we are all a part
- Utilize benchmarked information and data to avoid duplicating efforts
- Prioritize the principle of interconnectedness — our choices, both as individuals and as a campus, have consequences for others
- Consider the financial constraints and impacts of our recommendations
As the University of Nebraska-Lincoln reopens, the primary tools to limit the viral spread and harm are prevention through a combination of personal and public health practices and supportive therapy. We recognize, in particular, that these individual measures that are identified in this framework are not intended to be implemented in isolation from one another, but are intended to be implemented as a whole as part of a layered approach. Since the duration of this pandemic remains unclear and conditions continue to develop, the F2F Committee will continually update the framework in light of new public health guidance, scientific knowledge, and evolving local conditions.

**PERSONAL HYGIENE, PREVENTION, AND WELL-BEING MEASURES**

1. All UNL faculty, staff, students, and visitors will consistently practice personal hygiene and prevention measures including:
   - Self-monitoring for symptoms and staying home when ill or after having been exposed to someone known or suspected of having COVID-19.
   - Washing hands thoroughly and often.
   - Refraining from touching the face, eyes, nose, and mouth.
   - Practicing physical distancing, by maintaining 6 feet of distance from others.
   - Regularly cleaning and disinfecting surfaces.

2. All UNL faculty, staff, students, and visitors (including contractors, service providers, and others) will wear facial coverings when indoors on the UNL campus, with a few exceptions, and in keeping with established campus policy, see covid19.unl.edu/face-covering-policy. Facial covering will also be worn during UNL activities performed outdoors if safe physical distancing and gathering practices are not possible.

3. All are encouraged to self-monitor for and report symptoms of COVID-19 by using the “1-Check COVID-19 Screening” app developed by the University of Nebraska Medical Center. 1-Check COVID-19 enables individuals to privately answer a series of questions and assess their risk of having COVID-19. Then the app issues a “low risk,” “urgent risk” or “emergent risk” assessment and guides users toward possible next steps specific to their needs.

4. All UNL faculty, staff, and students will complete training to provide them information on required safety practices and tips for navigating the new normal on campus. All students will complete a Cornhuskers Commitment that reflects their commitment to the safety and wellbeing of the community.

5. A webpage is being developed to serve as an information hub on practices that UNL members can use to stay healthy and support their physical and emotional well-being.

6. All students, faculty, and staff are strongly encouraged to receive a flu vaccination in the fall. The University Health Center has ordered over 6,000 doses and will be holding flu clinics conveniently located across the campus for students.

7. All will participate in testing and contact tracing as necessary and directed under prescribed protocols.
**PUBLIC HYGIENE**

1. University Operations has designed and built free-standing large capacity hand-sanitizer dispenser stations that will be strategically located in high-traffic areas throughout campus. Each station holds three gallons of hand sanitizer that is being produced at Nebraska Innovation Campus. University departments can request free hand sanitizer in smaller volume containers through a newly established marketplace website marketplace.unl.edu/handsanitizer/hand-sanitizer.

2. University Communication has developed a variety of educational posters for all campus units’ use on public hygiene topics such as signs and symptoms of COVID-19, reminders to stay home when ill, elevator etiquette, and more. See go.unl.edu/f2f-graphics.

3. High-touch points in high-traffic student and public use areas will be cleaned and disinfected twice a day. Custodial and building systems employees have received training specifically related to COVID-19 and are following strict policies while conducting work in occupied spaces.

4. All are responsible for cleaning and disinfecting in areas that are not public, particularly those with limited service by custodial staff (e.g. laboratories, offices, residence hall bedrooms, etc.).

**FACILITIES, PHYSICAL DISTANCING, AND DENSITY REDUCTION**

1. All university activities, wherever they are performed (classrooms, labs, research facilities, extension offices, etc.), are expected to maintain physical distancing requirements of 6 feet between participants unless an exemption has been approved in advance.

2. All units are required to identify a person to serve as the COVID-19 site supervisor to document workplace COVID-19 prevention measures and review them with unit personnel. COVID-19 supervisors should use this template at go.unl.edu/f2f-form or an alternative equivalent to facilitate this review and communication process.

3. Requests to modify campus spaces in order to enhance physical distancing needs can be made by unit supervisors at fmo.unl.edu/covid-19-related-request. Such requests might include installation of plexiglass or similar barriers at face-to-face service points, relocation or removal of furnishings, and similar needs.

4. Building coordinator requests to establish directional traffic flow in and outside of buildings in order to reduce congestion and enable physical distancing can be made by contacting the University Operations Service Desk at 472-1550.

5. Facilities has set HVAC controls in all buildings to balance occupant comfort and adequate introduction of fresh air in accordance with ASHRAE standards. Facilities will continue to monitor recommendations from ASHRAE and other expert agencies and adjust the controls accordingly. Facilities will continue with ongoing, established air handling maintenance (e.g., cleaning, inspection, filter changes, etc.).
1. For the fall 2020 semester, all UNL-sponsored university instruction will utilize physical distancing of at least six feet between occupants. Instructional spaces will be modified by methods such as increasing spaces between desks, rearranging desks to maximize space between students; turning desks to face in the same direction (rather than facing each other), and eliminating or covering fixed seats.

2. Most instructional space capacity will be reduced to about 30% and may require specific technology for instructional needs. Some general purpose classrooms, as well as other college/department controlled rooms, will be equipped in one of three ways:

   - **Web Conferencing with Student Participation (WSP):** These classrooms will have equipment necessary to record/transmit video and audio (via Zoom, Skype, etc.) of the instructor, as well as audio of the students.
   - **Web Conferencing-Instructor Only (W):** These classrooms will have equipment necessary to record/transmit video and audio (via Zoom, Skype, etc.) of the instructor, but no capability for recording/transmitting video or audio of the students.
   - **Lecture Capture (LC):** These classrooms will have equipment necessary to record (but not transmit in real time) video and audio of the instructor.

3. Information Technology Services and the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor have secured funding to update all general purpose and all dedicated, full-use college- and department-managed classrooms (319 classrooms in total) with cameras, microphones, and windscreens to deliver on our shared commitment to equitable access to effective in-person instruction for the fall semester.

4. The Registrar’s office is working with the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor, College Dean’s offices and Departments to process department requests for alternative instructional spaces as available beginning June 15, 2020.

5. The Academic Planning Task Force is working with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to develop instructor syllabus statements, policies, and recommendations related to attendance, face coverings, academic integrity, and other relevant issues specific to teaching in fall 2020.

6. The Center for Transformative Teaching has provided institutes on hybrid pedagogical models and inclusive teaching to over 700 instructors since mid-March. The CTT will be holding 10 workshops on course planning, academic integrity and assessment, community building, universal design, and other topics through August to effectively prepare all instructors for a successful fall semester and they will also be providing additional workshops and training for incoming instructors.
**RESIDENCE AND STUDENT LIFE**

1. Housing has developed flexible contracts designed to support student success and well-being while meeting best public health requirements for residential living environments. Bedrooms will be limited to two occupants with beds placed 6-feet or more apart and physical distancing guidelines will be followed in all residence hall common spaces. Move-in will be staggered with reserved times to reduce congestion.

2. All University-approved housed fraternities and sororities will follow similar guidance and protocols for housing, dining, social gatherings, meetings, and other events. Beds will be placed six feet or more apart and bunking beds will not be permitted. Cleaning will increase in community bathrooms, lounges and game rooms. Visitors will be permitted only in communal areas near the entry to each residence hall. Dining will have more to-go meal options and limited seating with increased physical distancing also will be available. Move-in will be modified to increase distancing and limit personal contact. All other housed fraternities and sororities will follow the university guidance and established campus practices to the extent possible. Panhellenic recruitment will take place August 29-30 and September 5-6.

3. All students living in residence halls will receive a Stay Healthy, Huskers bag upon move-in that includes two N-themed face coverings, a thermometer, single hand sanitizer, antiseptic wipes and bandages, and a University Health Center magnet with phone number and COVID-19 symptoms, and information on the 1-Check COVID-19 Screening App.

4. Dining Services will follow the latest Directed Health Measures and guidance from the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department as it applies to restaurants. Dining halls and Herbie’s Markets will have more “to-go meal” options. Self-service food lines will be eliminated and replaced with employee-served lines. Operational hours will be expanded to allow students to spread out over time, but there will be full closures between meal periods to sanitize the serving and dining areas. In-person dining will be available, but tables and chairs in dining rooms will be rearranged to limit the number of people seated at any one table to 6 and to create 6-feet of physical distancing between tables. Bar seating will be removed.

5. Housing has developed extensive quarantine and isolation protocols to address a range of scenarios including students who might have active symptoms of infectious disease, students who might test positive for COVID-19, and students whose roommates might test positive. These protocols include communication to campus stakeholders (instructors, residence life staff, etc.), student checklists, and meal and general support for students’ academic success and well-being. While laundry service will not be available, students in isolation will receive free detergent.

**STUDENT WELCOME AND INVOLVEMENT**

1. The Big Red Welcome Street Festival and the Wellness Fair will be held across the campus to enable booths to maintain six-foot physical distancing. In lieu of the Tunnel Walk and the Class of 2024 “N” in Memorial Stadium, students’ NCard photos will be used to create a digital “N” photo superimposed on Memorial Stadium in which they will be able to find themselves and their friends.

2. Each academic college will host a welcome event for their students during the first week of classes. Other planned small group activities will include Class Schedule Tours, Downtown Tours, Out-of-State Student Receptions, and Commuter Student Meet-ups.
3. Residence Life is creating new programming using virtual platforms to build community and promote student engagement. Resident assistants will host events to engage students in smaller groups and a “Live Series” will provide web-based content on life skills, game nights, and stand-alone sessions offered by campus partners. Digital Study Groups will match interested students based on the courses they are taking for Zoom sessions.

4. Student Affairs has developed a “Risk Assessment Guide for Student Activities”, at go.unl.edu/riskassessment to help units and student organizations identify levels of risk in planning and implementing student programming for fall 2020.

**CAMPUS EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING**

1. Follow local and state health official guidelines for any limitations on group gathering sizes or restrictions.

2. All event participants and facilitators will wear facial coverings when indoors on the UNL campus, in keeping with established campus policy, with a few exceptions. Facial coverings will also be worn in outdoor UNL campus settings if safe physical distancing and gathering practices are not possible.

3. Utilize the “Risk Assessment Guide for Student Activities” as appropriate.

4. Modify event scheduling, agendas, locations, and room arrangements (seating, tables, etc.) to facilitate six or more feet of physical distancing between all attendees.

5. Offer virtual or remote event options as alternatives or supplements to in-person programming when possible. Such offerings accommodate participation and equitable access for populations who may be at higher health risk.

6. Coordinate with facilities on any need for more frequent cleaning of high-touch points in high-traffic areas related to large events.

7. Adhere to facility and room capacities, entrances, exits and traffic flows established for physical distancing.

8. Communicate to event attendees in advance information regarding self-monitoring, personal hygiene, location and availability of areas for hand washing and hand sanitizers, and facial covering and physical distancing policies and practices.

**TRANSPORTATION ON AND OFF CAMPUS**

1. University Operations is negotiating an additional contract for buses to transport students across UNL campuses in addition to the current STARTRAN provider. To meet increased ridership demand while protecting health, plastic covers have been installed on the backs of each seat.

**EMPLOYEES**

1. “Principles and Guidelines for Alternative Work Arrangements Due to COVID-19” covid19.unl.edu/alternative-work-arrangements were distributed on June 5, 2020. Supervisors are strongly encouraged to support the health and safety needs of their
faculty, staff, and student workers through remote work, alternative work sites, flexible work schedules, job sharing, reduced schedules, and other options for the fall 2020 semester while meeting the unit’s educational, research, and service missions.

2. Meetings may continue to be conducted remotely (phone, Zoom, etc.).

**DEGREE CONFERRAL**

1. The August 2020 in-person commencement will not be held. Degrees will be conferred in a virtual celebration. All graduates will receive gift boxes with a complimentary cap and tassel along with Husker themed souvenirs and will be invited to return at a future in-person commencement. A decision on December 2020 commencement is forthcoming.

**TESTING AND CONTACT TRACING**

1. All persons on campus will participate in COVID-19 symptoms monitoring programs and will be encouraged to use the 1-Check COVID-19 screening app.

2. During the fall 2020 semester, viral testing will be available in significant quantity to test any member of the UNL community who presents symptoms. In addition, UNL plans to implement targeted testing of populations, for example, in residential housing or when hot spots or surges of infection occur.

3. UNL will work with state and county health organizations to ensure that contact tracing is available to manage cases for the UNL community. UNL will make use of institutional data and analytics to streamline the contact-tracing process as appropriate.

4. UNL will provide quarantine and isolation for students living on campus. In addition, UNL case managers will manage quarantine and isolation for members of the community.

5. Moving into spring 2021, large scale availability of viral testing kits will continue and UNL will consider capacity for antibody testing when the data can be used for controlling viral spread.

**TRAVEL**

1. All Education Abroad programming through December 31, 2020 is cancelled. Decisions about Spring 2021 semester programming will be shared as soon as they are made.

2. Non-essential travel should be minimized.

3. Anyone coming to campus from international locations should self-quarantine for 14 days per current CDC guidelines.

4. An International Travel Risk Committee will be developed and led by UNL’s director of global safety and security to review waiver requests when international travel begins to reopen. This review process will ensure appropriate, comprehensive vigilance while addressing the specific needs and risks of each educational, research or creative activity proposed.