Dear Colleagues,

With officials across the country slowly starting to plan for a re-opening of cities and states, we continue to plan for our return to campus. We anticipate Washington Governor Jay Inslee will make an announcement today regarding the state's Stay Home, Stay Healthy order, which is set to expire after May 4. This could include plans to extend the order.

It is key that we follow guidance from our governor, as well as public health officials and our own in-house infectious disease experts. We are also in lockstep with our system Incident Command System and its Executive Policy Group in making any determinations. Making these decisions collaboratively ensures that the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff remains at the forefront of our thinking.

When we have details on a date for when the order will be lifted, and when we receive needed guidance from officials, we can complete our in-progress plan. We will communicate with you in a timely manner specific to transitioning back to campus. Like you, we are eager for a return to normalcy and are anxious to offer instruction on how this might happen. Yet, it is in the best interest of our campus community to be patient as we follow the lead of our system, and health and government officials. They likely will offer us specificity for our safe return, for example, the best way to socially distance ourselves, if there is a limit on the amount of people who can be in certain areas, as well expectations on how we work to protect ourselves.

Parallel to this, a task force is meeting frequently to determine how we safely ramp up our research activities. They are making many of the same considerations.

What we do know is that our transition back to campus will likely be in a staggered manner. Deep cleaning and sanitation measures continued throughout the stay home order, but to ensure all areas of campus are primed for our return, janitorial and maintenance personnel will likely be the
first group of employees back on campus.

Specific to fall and a physical return of our students, we are following the lead of our system and WSU President Kirk Schulz, who has stated University’s intention to have in-person instruction this upcoming fall semester.

Please be on the lookout in the coming days for updates from the governor specific to universities and subsequent instructions from us on how to safely return to campus.

Sincerely,

Daryll DeWald
Vice President and Chancellor
WSU Health Sciences Spokane