As you are aware, the Montana University System Healthy Fall 2020 Task Force has been working to develop a framework to guide colleges and universities as they plan for a safe return to campus life this fall.

The Task Force is releasing its comprehensive handbook of guidelines today. Our campus has been preparing for what our Fall 2020 Semester will look like, and this new handbook will provide us with system-level recommendations and protocols to help guide our continuing work.

While the handbook does not offer specific details on Helena College, or any other institution in the MUS, it demonstrates the intensive, high-level planning that is underway to facilitate a safe return to campuses this fall.

As noted in the handbook, the guidance released today is the result of extensive research and discussion, with feedback solicited from experts across the MUS as well as a broader population of employees, students, and administrators across the system. The guidelines have been crafted with, and reviewed by, officials from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Please keep in mind, this handbook provides a high-level blueprint that we are using to assist our planning. Several groups make up Helena College’s Healthy Fall Team and each are hard at work creating the Fall Semester plan for our campuses.

This important work takes time and much consideration from the perspectives of various campus stakeholders.

Your health and safety are our number one priorities and we will continue to provide you with more detailed information as it becomes available.