Dear residential and commuter students:

This year on the Mary Baldwin University campus will be like no other. We have asked you to wear masks, keep physical distance from your friends, and monitor your health in new ways. We understand that, at times, this goes against your natural instincts as you reunite with friends and hustle across our hilly campus. We realize that masks may sometimes seem uncomfortable, and may even seem unnecessary when you are outside.

But these rules are in place for a very serious reason: to keep you, your loved ones, your faculty, your friends, and the community safe. I am so proud of the majority of our students who have taken these policies seriously. I see so many of you making it work -- you are wearing your face masks and hanging out with friends at a distance. You've stopped to get your temperature taken, you've tracked your health and attested to it.

Unfortunately, there will be some who either ignore the rules or define their own exceptions where there is no room for compromise. This behavior will not be tolerated. Violations that occur on or off campus will be considered violations of the Code of Student Conduct (section 10, No. 7) and will be adjudicated expeditiously. You could be asked to leave MBU if you do not comply. Worse yet, you could be the cause of an outbreak.

No one wants campus to be closed to residential experiences or in-person learning. No one wants MBU to be a reason for a spike in COVID-19 cases in Staunton or Augusta County, which have seen relatively low numbers so far.

If you are not wearing a mask, you’ll be asked to. If your mask isn’t covering your nose, you’ll be asked to adjust it. If you are not distancing yourself from others, you will be reminded of our policy to stay 6 feet apart. To clarify any outstanding questions about the finer points of what we are expecting:

- Masks are to be worn by everyone at all times, even if you're outside. Wear it if you're walking between buildings, from the parking lot back to your residence hall, etc.
- Masks are required for all campus events and activities including, but not limited to: in-person classes, tutoring sessions, floor and building programs, study sessions, and in-person events. They should also be worn when socializing.
- The only times masks are not required: when you're in your room alone, in your car alone, while eating/drinking, or while showering.

August 21, 2020
• Your mask needs to cover BOTH your nose and mouth. Cloth masks and disposable surgical masks are both acceptable.
• If you forget your mask, there are extras available in the entrance areas of buildings around campus.

Furthermore, you must adhere to the posted occupancy limits for buildings and rooms on campus. You must not move furniture that has been specifically positioned to allow for proper distancing. Gatherings without masks and social distancing are not permitted.

In deciding to open the residential campus, the university has undertaken a significant responsibility to keep students, employees, and the community safe. Likewise, by being here, you have accepted a responsibility to your family, the campus, and the community to behave safely and sensibly. These are the terms of our reopening and the eyes of the community are on us. They trust that the students of Mary Baldwin University are conscientious and responsible enough to take the simple steps to keep themselves and their neighbors safe. Let’s hold each other accountable and help one another in this shared effort to protect our MBU family.

Dr. Ernest E. Jeffries
Vice President of Student Engagement

August 21, 2020