



# Office of the President

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

September 11, 2020

Dear NAU Community,

Over the past several weeks, we have announced a series of initiatives aimed at mitigating health and safety risks from COVID-19 helping our students have a successful in-person experience throughout the fall semester.

I would like to recap these initiatives, what they involve, and how they complement each other in our effort to not only help you with your own self-care, but also demonstrate respect and care for your fellow Lumberjacks.

- **Healthcheck** is a daily, self-administered reporting assessment that all faculty, staff, and students on campus must submit daily. The form takes less than a minute to fill out and will provide clear direction as to what to do next if you have symptoms of the virus.

- **Covid Watch** is an app for your phone that allows users to anonymously report positive test results, which triggers a notification to any individual who has been in close contact of their potential exposure and provides them with guidance on next steps to isolate and get tested. All of this is Bluetooth-enabled and preserves total confidentiality. We are maintaining an ongoing campaign all semester to encourage everyone in the NAU community to sign up for this app—the more people who use the app, the more effective it will be in managing any potential spread.

- **Mitigation testing**, which will help us monitor the health of our community and reduce risk across campus, is underway and will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday at the University Union Fieldhouse for the duration of the semester. Each week, members of the Lumberjack community will be notified that they have been randomly selected for a mandatory test in the week ahead. The mitigation testing site at the Fieldhouse also is free and open to the general public during the hours listed above. I encourage you to share this information and take advantage of this important resource. Mitigation testing uses the saliva-based test provided by Arizona State University and the Arizona Department of Health and Human Services.

- **COVID-19 information**, including active cases in our community, is updated regularly on NAU's coronavirus site.

In addition to these initiatives, it is critical that you self-report positive test results. We understand that this can be uncomfortable and may cause some concern about privacy or the potential for a stigma to be attached to this reporting. Please be assured that your information remains confidential—you will not be identified by name, and we are asking for this information solely in the interest of your safety and the safety of your friends, colleagues, and associates. You will be doing a major service for your fellow Lumberjacks by self-reporting. You may provide this notification in confidence to Campus Health Services at [nau.edu/healthynau](https://nau.edu/healthynau).

Finally, contact tracing is another means of stopping any potential spread of the virus. Please answer calls and respond to questions from NAU and Coconino County contact investigators. They

are trained to work with you to identify individuals who may have been exposed while keeping your identity and information confidential.

I hope this summary of the various initiatives we have in place provides not only the information you need to fully comply and engage, but also the reassurance that NAU is doing everything we can to put you and your health front and center in our thoughts and actions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rita", written in a cursive style.

**Rita Hartung Cheng**  
President