



Engaging Minds. Embracing the World.

To: Future La Roche University Students
From: Office of the President
Subject: Reopening for Fall Semester
Date: May 20, 2020

Dear Future Students:

At La Roche University, we have faith that this difficult time will come to an end, and we will soon welcome new students for the fall semester. Our community will once again gather in the Zappala Campus Center Square, in the Kerr Fitness & Sports Center, on our athletic fields, and of course in classrooms and labs. We will greet each other in the hallways, and eat together in the dining hall and outside the cafe. And maybe we will come together more aware of what we took for granted for so long: the importance of human connection.

After much consideration and planning, **I wish to share with you that our intention is to reopen campus and resume on-campus instruction, all activities, and athletics this coming fall semester, on August 24, 2020.** We did not arrive at this decision lightly. No doubt there is still much to learn about the Novel Coronavirus, but we believe that we will be able to reopen this fall. Every effort will be made to provide a safe and healthy environment for our students, faculty and staff.

I have created a steering committee consisting of a cross-section of campus leaders and charged them with developing the plan to reopen La Roche. This group has already looked at multiple scenarios involving COVID-19 and has developed academic contingency plans for each of these scenarios. Additional plans are in development, and we feel like we are in a good position to handle nearly all contingencies.

While it is impossible to eliminate risk, we will do everything we reasonably can to mitigate the ill effects of COVID-19 by practicing social distancing within classrooms, within our hallways, and in the residence halls. This may mean that we will be inconvenienced by reduced capacities in the dining hall, six-foot spacing between individuals in class and in lines, health monitoring, and the regular use of face masks and disinfectants. There also will be more class options offered remotely, though the majority of classes will still be held on-campus. Please know that all of these practices are in the best interest of our community.

The future is unpredictable and scientific research about COVID-19 is ongoing. With that said, while it is our intention to open this coming fall, we all must comply with the guidelines and requirements

established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Allegheny County Health Department regarding the pandemic. So while our plan is to open, we will only do so after Governor Wolf converts Allegheny County to the “green phase” under the Governor’s *Plan for Pennsylvania*.

We will continue to communicate with you as new and relevant information or policy developments arise. Please also visit our [coronavirus website](#) for ongoing updates. If you are attending or visiting La Roche this fall, I look forward to seeing you on campus.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sister Candace Introcaso". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sister Candace Introcaso, CDP, Ph.D.

President