



Office of the President

2 December 2020

Good afternoon NMI community,

I wanted to take a few minutes to connect with each of you to you remind students, staff, faculty and administration that the COVID19 crisis is still with us and, in fact, it has never been more threatening to our health and our safety as a nation and as a small college community.

The White House Coronavirus Task Force today issued extremely dire warnings to states in their weekly reports, urging public health officials to circumvent state and local policies amid record high cases, hospitalizations and deaths, as well as fears of a surge following Thanksgiving.

"The COVID risk to all Americans is at a historic high," say the reports dated November 29, which were shared with states. They provide figures from previous moments in the pandemic for comparison.

"The national daily COVID incidence after Memorial Day, but before the summer surge, was fewer than 25,000 new cases/day and is now more than 180,000 new cases/day; COVID inpatients then were fewer than 30,000 but are now more than 90,000; fatalities have more than doubled," the report says, concluding, "We are in a very dangerous place due to the current, extremely high COVID baseline and limited hospital capacity; a further post-Thanksgiving surge will compromise COVID patient care, as well as medical care overall."

Current fatalities are at over 271,000 documented deaths and documented cases have reached over 13,800,000 as of today. Cases in Fairhaven alone more than doubled from two weeks ago to last week. We need to be extra vigilant and maintain the highest level of caution.

As a result, the planned graduation ceremony on December 19th has been cancelled and a small and very intimate ceremony will be planned for Cohort 8 after successfully completing this last semester. Once COVID has passed we will conduct a long, overdue ceremony for all cohorts who have missed their graduation events due to COVID.

Please remember these simple facts:

- Wash your hands every 30 – 40 minutes.
- Wear your mask absolutely everywhere outside of your dorms/homes.
- Keep a safe distance between yourself and others at six feet.

Thank you for your hard work in being diligent and hard working towards keeping everyone safe and secure until this pandemic decides to go away.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric R. Dawicki".

Eric R. Dawicki, President
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