

On July 13th, Eastern implemented its Return to Operations Plan following recommendations and guidance from state and federal government, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the WV Department of Health and Human Resources, and Grant and Hardy County Health Departments. I want to commend all our students, faculty and staff, community members and visitors for their part in keeping our campus safe and I encourage everyone to continue following all safety protocols set in place.

Eastern received notification from the State of West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources to begin conducting surveillance testing of 10% of the on-campus students, faculty, and staff at all college campuses in West Virginia beginning this week. Per the Governor's directive, this testing will aid in monitoring and controlling the spread of the virus on our college campuses throughout the state.

The State is providing the resources for these tests and lab analysis. The process is simple. Each week, 10% of all **on-campus students, staff and faculty** will be randomly selected and contacted to be tested. We do not need to test those individuals who never come to campus. We are a small institution so after tallying up all on-campus faculty, staff and students, we are looking at about eight people per week. Since we have individuals on campus and at the Tech Center, we may need to schedule the testing for each week on different days to accommodate those individuals and the individuals administering the tests.

The test itself is a saliva-based PCR test kit where the person being tested is handed the test vial, they "spit" into the tube and tube is capped and then placed in a bio bag to send off for analysis. If you are contacted to take the test and you are at the Main Campus, you will go to the Human Resource Office and take the test. If you are at the Tech Center, tests will be administered before or during scheduled classes.

Though this surveillance testing isn't mandatory, Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College is requested to participate in the surveillance testing and I encourage everyone to support these efforts to keep our campus as well as our community safe. If someone refuses to take the test, Eastern is required to report the individual to the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources.

As we receive updates in regards to the surveillance testing, we will communicate information to everyone in a prompt and efficient manner.

Sincerely,

Charles "Chuck" Terrell, President
Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College