

To: Students, Patrons and Staff

From: Dwight R. Hughes, CEO/Superintendent

Date: July 15, 2020

Re: COVID-19 Update and Reopening



Education and training at the *speed* of business.

The world health community, CDC, and the Oklahoma Health Department continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic closely. High Plains Technology Center's administration is also monitoring the situation daily and taking steps to be proactive to address a number of business and school related concerns as we plan to start school next month.

We have received several questions about what will the fall semester look like? And while we would love to say that everything is going to be perfect and students will return to campus as normal, the real answer is unfortunately not that simple – at least not yet. Currently, High Plains Tech leadership is considering the many factors that play into students and staff returning to normal, face-to-face learning in the fall. Every possible step will be taken to ensure students can return to a safe, healthy learning environment, as that is our top priority. The ideal situation is that we can offer the face-to-face, person-to-person, hands-on learning experience that makes our programs and classrooms so unique. But we must also prepare for the possibility that remote learning — whether for a temporary or extended amount of time — could have to happen. These are unprecedented, uncertain times, and we strive to rise above them with the same ingenuity, creativity and spirit of innovation that our students show year after year.

As this pandemic is a very fluid situation, HPTC administration have been meeting and planning often on how to start school next month. As of today our plan is to start our fall semester on August 13, 2020 using the “Oklahoma COVID-19 Alert System” as a guide to determine what safety factors need to be in place depending on how many cases are present in the county. Our current plan has phases that are based on this rating system and we plan to follow these phases as we start school.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about our **Daytime Career Programs including Practical Nursing**, please call any of the folks listed below:

- **Mr. Barclay Holt, Assistant Superintendent Career Programs – 580-571-6128**
- **Mr. Don Gaines, Director of Student Activities – 580-571-6162**
- **Ms. Amber Riley, Director of Student Services/Counselor – 580-571-6183**
- **Ms. Micky McDonald, Director of Practical Nursing – 580-571-6101**

If you have questions pertaining to our **Business & Industry Services programs including Wind Tech, Oil & Gas, or Safety training**, please call one of the folks listed below:

- **Mr. Taylor Burnett, Assistant Superintendent, Business & Industry Services – 580-571-6125**
- **Mr. Steven Rogers, Coordinator, Industry & Safety Training – 580-571-6120**
- **Ms. Sheila Reazin, Admin Assistant, Business & Industry Services – 580-571-6167**

I appreciate everyone's patience as we continue to tread through very uncharted waters and please know the safety of our students, staff, business clients, and stakeholders is at the forefront of all our decisions. There are several plans of action being developed for what learning will look like at High Plains Tech on and after August 13th. Please visit this page throughout the rest of the summer and monitor our social media pages for updates.

For more information on the Coronavirus, please visit the two sites listed below:

- [Oklahoma State Department of Health](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) – Preventive Measures for Coronavirus](#)