

July 2, 2020

Dear friends of MSUB:

2020 has been a year few of us will forget! The coronavirus pandemic and COVID-19 have created challenges for our community, our state, our nation and the world that are unprecedented in our lifetime. Over the last six months we have learned much, including how little we know about this novel virus and its effect on our communities.

Colleges and universities face unique challenges with respect to the pandemic. Large numbers of students and staff; life in residence halls, classrooms, and labs; and the inherently interactive, social nature of life on campus are all factors that need to be considered as we consider resuming on-campus activities.

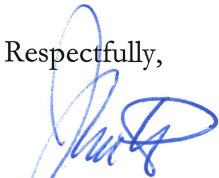
There are also protective factors that are part of college life. College students tend to be younger and generally healthy, as well as a highly motivated to succeed and follow through with expectations and requirements.

There is no way to absolutely eliminate all risk, whether the risk of spreading disease by virtue of on-campus academic and extracurricular activities, or the risk of loss of the full academic, social connectedness, and social development benefits that result from the college experience. Our goal cannot be to eliminate risk – every choice creates some risk of some type – but rather to mitigate and manage risk.

I have worked closely with the leadership of MSUB to develop, review, and refine plans and processes intended to mitigate and manage the risks associated with resumption of on-campus academic and extracurricular activities of the 2020-2021 academic year. I have been impressed with the commitment of the University's leadership to take steps to reduce risk while retaining the benefits of the on-campus college experience.

While no institution of higher education contemplating resumption of on-campus activities can, or should, propose that all risk of COVID-19 has been eliminated, it is appropriate to ask if reasonable measures to prevent, mitigate, and if necessary control an outbreak have been considered and implemented. Based on my ongoing experience with MSUB and its leadership, I can state with confidence that this University has taken intentional and reasonable efforts to reduce these risks while planning resumption of on-campus activities in the fall of 2020.

Respectfully,



John Felton, MPH, MBA, FACHE
President & CEO / Health Officer