



“Our Finest Hour” July 28th, 2020

“Plan for the Worst, and Hope for the Best”

Changed my insurance awhile back. Wanted to make sure the “big stuff” was covered adequately so Linda and the kids wouldn’t be saddled with my gambling debts should something bad happen.” Instead of operating on the assumption that I might win the lottery, my agent advised me to “plan for the worst, and hope for the best.” I kinda liked that idea, so I did.

Am operating under the same concept as we manage our way through the coronavirus pandemic. Spent absolutely all day yesterday discussing mask policies, reopening plans, contingency plans, and support for our faculty and staff, especially those with children in school.

Later today, am meeting with the COE department heads, Greenwood, ATLL, CDC, and others to develop approaches, practices, and policies to ensure we can deliver high quality instruction this fall while keeping people safe. An added caveat is providing support for employees with children in school. This latter was actually the major focus yesterday and will be again today.

My office has collected information from other colleges regarding their ideas for the following: distributing masks to faculty, staff, and students who need them; enforcing the mask policy; reporting positive COVID-19 tests; determining when to make modality adjustments if necessary; and (again, here’s the “biggie”—how to support faculty and staff who have children in school. [Not really counting, but I think I’ve now mentioned that three times, here.]

Will share a draft of ideas generated by the COE leadership team in my next communique. As I mentioned several days ago, the class-level mask policy is still under review by the Provost’s Office. Whenever that draft is ready for human consumption, we will share it with you. For now, it’s back to the Zoom room.

Keep Calm and Wear Your Mask,

David