As the fall semester begins on August 17, it is important that you have all of the information you need to return safely to campus and protect the health and safety of our entire Bearkat community. We have spent an enormous amount of effort this summer to ensure our university is as safe as possible to allow you to have the best college experience.

We all have a *shared responsibility* in keeping our SHSU community safe and healthy against the spread of COVID-19. Our responsibilities include: wearing a mask, social distancing, washing our hands, enhanced cleaning protocols and limiting in-person events. As our knowledge of COVID-19 continually evolves, it will be necessary for each of us to be flexible and patient as circumstances change.

**Keeping Bearkats Safe**

**Mask ’Em Up Kats!**

Sam Houston State now requires cloth face coverings, both indoors and outdoors, on campus, unless you are in a private space like your residence room or when wearing one is impractical, such as eating. Information about the university’s face covering policy can be found [online](#).

**Six Paws Apart**

Physical distancing is extremely important to minimize the chance of breathing droplets from an infected individual. Keep a minimum of six feet apart from others and avoid large crowds or gatherings.

**Wash Your Paws**

Wash your hands at least hourly with soap and warm water for 20 to 30 seconds. Use hand sanitizer between washings. Hand sanitizer dispensers are available throughout campus and at the entrance of all buildings.

**Monitor Your Health**

Check your temperature before coming to campus and/or class each day. If you do not feel well, stay home and contact your physician or the Student Health Center.
COVID symptoms can range from mild to severe, may appear anywhere from two to fourteen days after exposure. The most common symptoms are:

- fever or chills,
- cough,
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing,
- fatigue,
- muscle or body aches,
- headache,
- loss of taste or smell,
- sore throat, congestion or runny nose,
- nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

If you're experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to the virus, you need to self-report to the Student Health Center by calling 936-294-1805. Once you self-report, the Dean of Students and your faculty members will be notified of your absence.

Follow these protocols if you are a student who lives on-campus and:
1. have been exposed
2. are experiencing symptoms

Follow these protocols if you are a student who lives off-campus and:
1. have been exposed
2. are experiencing symptoms

**Building/Classroom Preparations**

Look for signs in all campus buildings guiding you on where to enter and exit and how to move throughout the building. It is important to pay attention to all signs to help maintain the safest environment possible.

**Buildings/Common Areas**

- Floor decals and markings are in high-traffic areas to direct foot traffic and encourage social distancing
- Elevator limitation signage explains the number of occupants allowed in an elevator at the time
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting across campus
- Plexiglass barriers in direct customer service areas
- Social distancing required throughout campus
- Hand sanitizer dispensers are available in lobbies, hallways and common areas
Classrooms

- Designated seating marked to encourage social distancing in classrooms
- Disinfecting wipes at the entrance of every classroom/lab
- Faculty and students must wear face coverings during instruction. Faculty can wear face shields in addition to face coverings

Remote Learning Labs

The university has designated four remote learning labs for students needing a quiet location on campus to attend remote classes. Students utilizing a remote learning lab must bring headphones/earbuds, wear face coverings and practice social distancing. The locations and times are:

**Evans 105**
- Monday: 8 – 11 a.m.
- Wednesday: Noon – 5 p.m.
- Friday: 1 – 5 p.m.

**LSC Theatre**
- Monday: 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Tuesday: 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Wednesday: 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Smith-Hutson Building – Room 331**
- Monday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Tuesday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Thursday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Smith-Hutson Building – Room 133**
- Wednesday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Class Format

SHSU is offering classes in a hybrid/blended model this fall. The fall semester will begin as scheduled on Monday, August 17 and will conclude with final exam week, scheduled for Friday, December 4 to Wednesday, December 9.

SHSU has granted students the ability to request 100% remote delivery of a blended course. Due to specific course requirements, some courses may not be able to be completed in a 100% remote option. The determination of the request is solely up to the discretion of the instructor.
How to request the remote option?

- On August 7, a new link was added to your blended course menu in Blackboard, titled “Request Remote Option”.
- Click the “Request Remote Option” link and follow the instructions displayed.
- For help, contact the SHSU Online Support Desk, open 24/7, at blackboard@shsu.edu or 936-294-2780.

Dining Services

SHSU's Dining Services’ fall plan aims to enhance student safety and mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19. Although things will look different in the fall, Dining Services will continue to provide students and the campus community with a quality dining experience while ensuring protocols of the highest level of safety are followed. The plan may be revised throughout the semester to address any changes in COVID-19 requirements, so please visit Restart 2020 for important updates.

All campus facilities, with the exception of the Three Horse Tavern, will be open during fall 2020. For a list of hours of operations of each individual location, visit the Dining Services Website.

Facilities Plan

- No self-serve stations
- Social distancing graphics on floors and tables/chairs. Floor markers for all areas. Directional arrows and table and chair configurations to encourage 6’ spacing
- All packaged items on request
- Increased cleaning frequency of all high-touch surfaces
- Sanitization of all equipment (CDC approved sanitizer and disinfectant)
- Plexiglass barriers at all locations for customer/employee protection
- Line stanchions
- Hand sanitizer stations

Focus on Students

- Touchless technology—No-Touch payment process
- All customers must wear a mask in all dining facilities. Masks are required at all times, unless someone is sitting down (stationary) and eating/drinking.
- Increased availability of tissues and trash cans
- Reduced seating capacity
Residential take-out
- Increased outdoor seating
- On-going collaboration with students through dining committee or student roundtable

**Enhanced Sanitation for Employees**
- Hand washing and glove change—every 15 minutes
- Employees required to wear facial coverings
- Self-sanitizing stations in all areas

**Adapting our Operations**
- Mobile ordering through GrubHub at all campus venues
- LSC Subway will be used for GrubHub orders only (SUBWAY pick-up orders)
- All retail locations will package food items to-go
- Touchless technologies at all dining venues provided—download QR Codes for No-Touch Payment Process
- South Paw Dining—To-Go only program for students, faculty and staff
- General’s Market/Old Main Market—To-Go options will be available
- Expanded Grab-n-Go options at our five campus POD locations (Sandwiches, Salads & Snacks)

**Residence Halls**

**Move-In**
- Move-in will take place over three days (August 14-16)
  - Each resident will be assigned an appointment (day/time) to move in
  - No more than 1/3 of the capacity of each building will be moving on any given day, and will be spread out among floors and wings for density mitigation
  - Face coverings will be required for all persons during move-in and beyond
- Residents will only be allowed two (2) family members or friends to assist with move-in
- There will be no university organizations or groups assisting with move-in
• Only four (4) persons will be allowed in an elevator at one time
• Furniture will be marked appropriately to indicate where students may safely sit

General Information

Social Distancing
• We will expect all faculty, staff and students to maintain appropriate measures of social distancing when inside any office, residence hall or apartment.

Face Coverings
• As required by the university, all faculty, staff and students must wear masks or other face coverings except in their private office or residence or where impractical. For an on-campus resident, this means that face coverings must be worn anywhere within the residence halls with the exception of your assigned room; this includes elevators, stairwells, hallways, study rooms, lounges and the laundry room.
• Residents will be required to wear a face covering when an authorized staff member (including custodial, pest control, or maintenance staff) needs to enter the resident’s room in order to complete university business. The staff member will also wear a face covering during this interaction. If the resident is unable to find their mask, the staff member will provide them with a disposable mask.

Signage
• Signage in the form of infographics will be placed on the back of every resident room entrance door indicating COVID-19 symptoms, social distancing measures and face covering standards
• Signs will be posted both inside and outside each elevator, limiting elevator occupancy to four (4) people
• Stickers, consisting of a green check or a red X, will be placed on all public area furniture, indicating where residents may safely sit to appropriately social distance.
• Pawprint stickers will be utilized on floors in high-traffic areas to indicate distancing for lines

Exposure
• Students who live on campus and are diagnosed with COVID-19, experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, and/or recently came in contact with an individual confirmed to have COVID-19 will be advised to return to their off-campus permanent residence for isolation or quarantine.
Should the campus need to close due to COVID-19, all students living in residence halls **must** move out and return to their off-campus permanent residence.

For more information about residence life and COVID-19, visit the [residence life FAQ](#).

**Student Services**

To reduce density of students on campus, the majority of academic and student support services will provide remote access, with limited face-to-face services. For more information about individual services, check their individual website or [Restart 2020](#).

**Stay Informed**

You will receive regular updates from the university regarding health and safety measures, university policies and procedures and other information relevant to COVID-19. Check the [Restart 2020](#) webpage for daily updates as well as social media and make sure you are signed up for [KatSafe](#) for emergency alerts.

**Stay healthy, stay educated, and Eat ’Em Up Kats!**