



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY



From **My Notepads**

July 29, 2020

Virtual Town Hall on Friday, July 31

Throughout the spring and summer months I have hosted a series of Virtual Town Hall events to provide our students, faculty, staff and members of the region an update on important issues such as the budget as well as our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These sessions have also been an opportunity for persons to ask questions about a variety of other topics.

My next Virtual Town Hall is scheduled for this Friday, July 31 at 11 a.m. via Zoom at <https://etsu.zoom.us/j/95828692497>. The topic will be “Bucs are Back” and I will discuss plans for welcoming students as they return to campus for the fall semester. If you have a question you would like addressed, please send them to me in advance of the Town Hall: president@etsu.edu.



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

LIVE TOWN HALL

With President Brian Noland

<https://etsu.zoom.us/j/95828692497>



Friday, July 31 | 11 AM



Policy on Facial Coverings Approved

Yesterday, I announced that a policy has been approved that requires all students, faculty and staff as well as visitors to campus to wear a facial covering when in classrooms and other public areas as well as in outdoor areas where a physical distance of six feet cannot be maintained between persons. This policy is in effect until further notice. You can read the policy [here](#). In addition, a listing of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) is also available.

The ETSU Board of Trustees affords me the authority to approve, revise or suspend policies during extraordinary circumstances when emergency actions are needed.

COVID-19 Response Task Force Leading Implementation Efforts

The health and safety of all members of the ETSU community and our visitors to campus remain our highest priority. We recognize that the current state of the pandemic is concerning to many people. ETSU continues to monitor data and other information that is being released regarding COVID-19 from local, state and federal health organizations. Our decisions regarding academic and business operations of the institution are also being informed by our health experts and leaders on this campus.

In recent weeks, the Future Operations Workgroup and the Strategic Options Workgroup have presented their recommendations to senior leadership. I have appointed a COVID-19 Response Task Force and charged this group with the responsibility of overseeing the operational implementation of the recommendations from these two groups. Led by Jeremy Ross and Dr. Bill Block, the team will guide the institution's response to COVID-19 while building and sustaining efforts to mitigate, respond and recover from this crisis. Bill Rasnick is serving as the operational lead and the initial point of contact for the entire task force. Dr. Block has appointed Dr. Leigh Johnson to serve as the liaison between the Quillen College of Medicine and the task force to ensure that the ETSU medical team and our regional partners' efforts relative to testing, contact tracing, and health care are coordinated.

In addition to the Task Force, existing teams in academics, student life, employees, athletics, communication, budget, events and operations are providing support and guidance. I appreciate the work of all these individuals to help ensure the future safety of all members of the ETSU community.

Deadline Approaching for New Payment Plan Option

Significant feedback has been received from our students regarding the possibility of ETSU offering additional options for fee payment. Based on that feedback, ETSU has created a 5-Installment Payment Plan that is available for students beginning this fall. The Bursar's Office announced this option during the spring semester, and noted that students also have a 4-Installment Payment option in addition to paying fees in full. [Click here](#) to learn more.

As a reminder: those students wanting to take advantage of the 5-installment plan need to make their first installment payment by this Friday, July 31. Students can enroll in a payment plan by visiting [GoldLink](#).

Upcoming Equity and Inclusion Conference

I hope your schedules will allow for you to be part of ETSU's second annual Equity and Inclusion Conference Sept. 22-23. The theme of the conference is "By All, For All: Remapping Our Communities, Economies and Lives Through Equity and Inclusion." The conference will be held virtually and registration is now open. An Early Bird Rate is in effect through Friday, July 31. For more information and registration, visit the Equity and Inclusion Conference [web page](#).

