



CITY OF
FAYETTEVILLE
ARKANSAS

Fayetteville Board of Health
City Health Officer
City of Fayetteville
113 West Mountain Street
Fayetteville, AR 72701

November 13, 2020

Office of the Chancellor
University of Arkansas
425 Administration Building
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs
ADMN 422
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

Dear Chancellor Steinmetz and Provost Robinson,

We are reaching out to you today to request your assistance in controlling the Covid-19 outbreak that is occurring in Northwest Arkansas. As you make your decision regarding whether or not to have students return after Thanksgiving, we ask that you consider the impact that this action will have on viral spread within our community, the impact on our already strained healthcare system, and, ultimately, our mortality rate. Washington Regional Medical Center has had a 36% increase in the number of Covid-19 patients admitted since last Friday. As we have learned, hospitalizations are a lagging statistic. As we see our cases increase, we fully expect hospitalizations to follow. We currently have Covid-19 patients in two Covid-19 units, and the third is open and fully expecting to have patients in the near term. Over the past few days, we have seen the number of cases of Covid-19 increase not just within Arkansas but within the surrounding states as well. Texas hit a milestone with 1,000,000 cumulative cases, and Arkansas continues to routinely break the previous record of daily case counts. As students travel home and back, this virus will travel with them. We understand that you have started a campaign entitled, "What are you bringing to dinner?" in order to encourage students get tested prior to traveling home for Thanksgiving. We ask that students not bring more virus back to our community.

In Safety,

Martha Ann B. Sharkey, MD, FAAP

City Health Officer