



## THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

The Texas A&M System leadership and our university Presidents have worked for months on reopening plans that emphasize the safety of our students, faculty and staff, while also recognizing the educational benefits of in-person instruction when feasible.

System guidance included physical distancing, requirement for face-coverings and a mixture of online, remote and classroom teaching. It also calls for accommodating anyone — students or faculty — who are in a high-risk group and providing remote options for students who are uncomfortable with being in a classroom.

The System also is providing 15,000 free tests each month for students, faculty and staff members who have symptoms, have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and to provide ongoing monitoring for COVID-19 on our campuses and in our student housing. Our Health Science Center has created a contact tracing system for all campuses that will tie into the larger state effort.

The Presidents have customized the plan to fit the circumstances and needs of their campuses, and a process has been established for the university leadership to review metrics regularly and consult with medical and public health experts in considering movement from one level of operation to another.

Finally, it is inevitable that people will differ on how best to respond to this pandemic. We recognized that by providing online and remote choices while also responding to those students and faculty members who value the classroom experience.

We commend West Texas A&M University on their diligent efforts to provide a safe welcome back to campus this fall—whether that is in person or online. The individual responsibility and dedication of the faculty, staff and student body is appreciated.

Elaine Mendoza  
Chairman, The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents

John Sharp  
Chancellor, The Texas A&M University System