Dear MSU employees:

The recent news of more than 40 positive COVID-19 cases linked to an East Lansing bar reinforces the importance of personal responsibility and taking appropriate measures to protect ourselves, our colleagues and our community. The latest update from the Ingham County Health Department indicates that at least 43 individuals who visited Harper’s Restaurant and Brew Pub between June 12-20 have tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

This recent spike in cases compels us to remind each of you of the necessary actions you must take if you have tested positive for the virus or have come in close contact with someone who has. Per the guidance of the Ingham County Health Department, those who were at the East Lansing establishment between June 12-20 are advised to self-quarantine for 14 days and monitor for symptoms of the respiratory disease. Additionally, those who have come in close contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, whether as a result of this recent outbreak or other circumstances, should self-quarantine for 14 days and monitor for symptoms. At no point should anyone who has come in close contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 report to campus for work until their self-quarantine period is over and they are not exhibiting symptoms.

To help ensure the safety of our workforce and greater Spartan community, MSU recently updated its campuswide health-screening form that employees are required to complete each day before they come to campus to work. It is critically important that all employees complete this health screening each day accurately – including the last question about close contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus. The Ingham County Health Department has a number of resources available on its website to help you determine whether you have been in close contact with someone and ways to prevent further transmission of the virus.

As the president stated earlier this week, this virus can be spread when people are in close proximity to each other or are not wearing face coverings. We must all do our part and take the necessary steps to protect ourselves and others from the unnecessary spread of this respiratory disease – that includes avoiding large gatherings and wearing a face covering in public areas.

Thank you,

David Weismantel
University Physician