



NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE

Office of the President / Superintendent

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TO: NMMI Constituents

FROM: MG Jerry W. Grizzle

DATE: November 12, 2020

RE: Weekly Update – Week of November 9, 2020

I want to dedicate this week's update to a discussion of the return to school protocols for the January semester. I have mentioned in previous updates that we will publish our return to school documents the week of November 16th. We are still on track to do that. The documents will be very specific in their content and detail. The four documents are:

1. Spring 2021 Campus Plan and Protocols
2. Spring 2021 Matriculation Timeline
3. Spring 2021 Academic Calendar
4. Spring 2021 Commandant's Plan of the Day

What I would like to do is get into some specifics ahead of the documents so Parents and Cadets can begin to plan. Let me first discuss the return to school protocols.

I am sure we have all heard that a vaccine is eminent. Absent some game changing event like a vaccine being introduced, we envision the start of the spring semester being very similar to the first semester. Cadets will be tested and immediately put into isolation pending the test results. We will stage the Cadets arrival in groups so that we can insure every Cadet will be isolated in a single room pending the test results. When the test results are known that group of Cadets will be moved into their permanent room assignment, with a roommate. If anyone tests positive, they will remain in their single room until their 10 day isolation total criteria has been met. All rooms that were used will be deep cleaned before the arrival of the next wave of Cadets. Based on the athletic and academic schedules, we anticipate four arrival groups of Cadets.

During the fall semester we initially tested 826 Cadets and only 15 positive results. Five days after the first test, every cadet was tested again. We had zero positive results on the second test. With this experience factor as a reference point, and the fact we now have our own rapid test capability, we will not be conducting the second test.

The spring semester return to school plan is centered on three principles, testing, single room isolation during testing, and close contact separation during testing. The third factor is critical and something we learned by experience during the first semester. We learned that the minute someone is identified as close contact due to contact tracing or a potential positive based on symptoms, to put that individual into immediate isolation while you wait on test results. Test results can take three to five days. By putting the individual into isolation, you eliminate their ability to have close contact. If their test results come back positive, you have accomplished two things by going into immediate isolation. First you have



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already accounted for some number of their mandatory 10 days in isolation because the 10 day period starts from the test date. Second, the CDC criteria states that you start identifying close contact individuals up to two days before the test. If they have been in isolation, you have limited or eliminated additional people that might have been infected.

I have gone into this detail to explain why we need everyone to pay attention to the group and the date your Cadet will be assigned to. This Friday, the 13th, a large group of NMMI Administrators will meet to develop the four arrival groups. Each group will consist of Cadets who have certain date requirements that must be met, for instance sports teams that have games scheduled. Those Cadets have to get here, go into testing and isolation in time to come out and get ready for their season. This NMMI Administrative group knows every Cadet by name, any special group they belong to and will come out of that meeting on Friday with every cadet assigned to one of the four groups.

We will be ready to release those group assignments the week of November 16th. At that time Parents, you can plan your Cadets travel plans. It is imperative that you plan to have your Cadet here on the assigned date. We are expecting 800 + Cadets for the spring semester. For us to manage the rooms, have single empty rooms available for each wave, have dedicated isolation rooms available for anyone that tests positive, we must have everyone arrive on their assigned date. The one certain date is graduation date will be May 15, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry W. Grizzle".

Jerry W. Grizzle, PhD
Major General, USA, Retired
President and Superintendent