

**From:** [MCGRADY, TRACY M.](#)  
**To:** [fulltimefaculty](#); [adjunctfaculty](#)  
**Subject:** Provost's Notes: Week 10  
**Date:** Monday, October 26, 2020 4:36:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [Testing Schedule for Public Oct. 25 - 31.docx](#)

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Good afternoon!

We're officially in the double-digits this week: We've made it to Week 10! A few items to share:

**Post-Thanksgiving Reminder to Students:** Please remind your students that **OTC plans to resume as normal after the weeklong break at Thanksgiving**. There has been some confusion about this, so a quick reminder won't hurt. Our Communications and Marketing team has us covered through social media, but nothing beats an in-class reminder from the instructor.

However, as with nearly everything in 2020, this item comes with an asterisk. OTC's Pandemic Response Team is still meeting multiple times per week and monitoring COVID spread in our communities. If it is deemed unsafe to return in-person, we will change our plans.

**Community Testing Event:** In addition to the free Springfield campus testing for asymptomatic individuals, there will be **free community testing events for Missouri residents throughout this week**. Please see the attached flyer for testing locations around the state and registration instructions. For Springfield area folks, the testing event will be at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds this Friday (October 30) and Saturday (October 31).

**Stay Vigilant:** As we enter into colder weather, please remain vigilant. We continue to have a high level of masking compliance at our locations, but I encourage you to **reinforce the importance of wearing a mask to your students**. With Ozark and Nixa being the latest communities to implement a mask mandate, OTC locations will continue to be among the safest places in our region. There is still a great deal of community spread, but hopefully we will see this begin to flatten or decrease as we have at our campuses and centers.

In addition to this, I encourage each one of you to think about your activities outside of work and your susceptibility to contracting COVID-19. Wear a mask, avoid crowded places, and limit unmasked interactions with those outside your immediate family. Use Zoom as much as possible. We are all growing weary of the pandemic, but it will not last forever. For now, let's take care of ourselves and each other.

What questions can I answer? What can I do to help? I always love hearing from you and value your feedback, so as always, feel free to contact me.

Have a great week!

**Tracy M. McGrady, Ed.D.**

Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
Ozarks Technical Community College

1001 E. Chestnut Expressway  
Springfield, MO 65802  
417.447.8152