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1918 Letter from President Roemer about Lindenwood Response to Influenza Pandemic

Lindenwood College

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LINDENWOOD COLLEGE
ST. CHARLES, MO.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
JOHN L. ROEMER, D.D.

October 22, 1918

To the Patrons of the School:

Some days ago we informed you that the State had placed Lindenwood College in quarantine as a preventive measure against the spread of Influenza.

The College authorities efficiently equipped the infirmary by placing a physician and trained nurses in charge. With the physician and trained nurses were associated members of the faculty who assisted as their services were required. Specialists were placed on the medical staff in case consultation would be required. Many students were taken to the infirmary, having colds and slight fever, the purpose being to eliminate any possibility of communicating their troubles to others. We have been very fortunate in not having any serious results from the epidemic, owing entirely to the great care and precaution taken. At the present writing we are glad to inform you that there are only four girls in the infirmary, all of whom are recovering and there has been no new case in the past six days.

The best of everything has been provided free of all expense to the patrons. We would ask the co-operation of all parents in helping us to maintain the good health of the girls by refraining from sending in food-stuffs and especially canned goods and cake. It is only natural to want to express your love by these gifts but our physicians are of the opinion that there is too lavish an outlay in boxes, which are not for the best interest of health. The food at the College is carefully selected, well cooked and bountiful in its supply. The Board of Directors were insistent upon having every infirmary patient provided with a diet especially fitted to the individual need.

We are still in quarantine and will be probably until the same is lifted in St. Louis.

Thanking you, in advance, for your co-operation with us along lined indicated above, and assuring you of the best care of your daughter's health, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

JLR/AC

John L. Roemer