

Good evening,

Thank you for your ongoing care and attention as we work together as a campus community to plan for and address the unfolding novel coronavirus COVID-19 (“COVID-19”). As of this writing there are no confirmed cases in Mesa County or on our campus. Please review the following updates specific to campus plans. The university has published a [new webpage](#) to serve as a central repository for the campus and stakeholders to review new information and updates regarding COVID-19. Most recently, you will find a [message](#) sent by President Foster. I also just sent the attached note to students. In an effort to address many of the questions we have received to-date, below you will find information organized by subject area. Information is changing rapidly and we will strive to keep all stakeholders up to date as new information emerges.

TRAVEL GUIDANCE

We understand many of you have pre-existing travel plans for next week (March 16-20). The university strongly encourages you to carefully consider ongoing [travel recommendations](#) from the CDC as you think through travel arrangements. Specifically, the CDC is [advising](#) that you do not board cruise ships. Everyone should read the Mesa County Public Health COVID-19 travel advisory (attached to this e-mail as a PDF). At this time, the university is urging everyone to exercise personal responsibility and cautions all students, faculty, and staff to make prudent choices and limit travel outside of Grand Junction. Should you choose to travel, please refer to the health department’s guidance for closely monitoring symptoms upon your return. Faculty and staff should work with Department Heads and Supervisors to discuss any upcoming business related travel. Understanding there will be a limited need for essential business travel, CMU will reimburse for trip-cancelation insurance, as appropriate. This waiver to our current fiscal policy will remain in place until there is no longer a threat to public health due to COVID-19. Please work with your Department Head or Supervisor, in partnership with the Travel & Procurement Office, if you have other specific travel-related inquiries.

ACADEMIC COURSE DELIVERY AND SCHEDULE

Effective March 23, immediately following Spring Break, CMU courses will be temporarily moved to an online format for a period of two weeks (March 23-April 5). The university recognizes there is a myriad of classes, and not all coursework will lend itself to online instruction, including internships, clinicals, practicums, etc. New information or changing facts may extend the timeline and scope of online instruction. Students are advised to ensure that they are prepared to engage in D2L courses when classes commence online on March 23. Students can access additional online resources, tools, and guidance on the newly-developed online education [support site](#). Students can expect to hear more information from faculty members in the coming days concerning schedule, expectations and format. It will be critically important that students are frequently checking their CMU email and D2L course shells (i.e., MAVzone). Students taking WCCC, Concurrent (including offered in the high schools), and Career and Technical Education courses will receive additional guidance from WCCC and School District 51 as details for these courses are finalized. Barring no new facts or substantially changed circumstances, in-class, face-to-face instruction will resume as usual on April 6.

All CMU campuses (Main Campus, Bishop Campus, Montrose Campus) will remain open during this period (March 16-April 5). This includes all academic buildings and business operations (the University Center, Tomlinson Library, Sodexo food service, Hamilton Recreation Center, Residence Life, etc.).

SICK LEAVE AND FLEXIBLE WORK OPTIONS

To continue facilitating public health guidance for social distancing, specifically for [high-risk populations](#) per CDC guidance, the university is currently reviewing sick leave protocols. The Director of Human Resources (HR) will provide further guidance on this topic in the near future for both employees and supervisors. Pending further guidance in the coming days, the university encourages any employee who is in a high-risk population and has concerns about remaining in the workplace to discuss flexible work options with their Department Head or Supervisor. As with other respiratory viruses, we would encourage the entire campus community to observe good personal care practices, such as good handwashing and hygiene, covering your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing, avoiding others with known cold and flu-like symptoms and staying at home if you are sick. Members of the campus community who have flu-like or respiratory illness symptoms who **also** have a recent travel history to an affected area should first call a health care provider, urgent care, or hospital for instructions before going to a clinic or emergency room in person. Known COVID-19 symptoms may include fever, cough and/or shortness of breath. Symptoms usually appear within two to 14 days after exposure. [More info about COVID-19.](#)

CAMPUS CUSTODIAL AND CLEANING

As always, CMU Custodial Services is prioritizing sanitation on our campuses. The university has added staffing in the custodial department and increased the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting across campus. Public buildings across campus are fully disinfected every morning, afternoon, and following closing – and an additional daily cleaning has been added for a total of 3-5 cleanings daily. Academic buildings are disinfected and cleaned daily and Residence Halls are currently being cleaned and disinfected twice daily. The university is following CDC and Public Health Department recommendations regarding recommended disinfectants to protect against COVID-19 specifically. Special care and consideration is going into the procurement of cleaning supplies such as disinfecting soap, hand sanitizers, and the like.

MASS GATHERINGS

In accordance with direction from Governor Jared Polis and other leaders, CMU is urging all stakeholders to exercise good judgment, personal responsibility and common sense during this period. Accordingly, we are not planning to cancel all gatherings, instead, will consider each planned event on a case-by-case basis during this period, based on the specific facts. If you have an event planned over the next few weeks, please consult with your Department Head or Supervisor. For guidance and direction from the CDC on this topic, please click [here](#).

This pandemic remains fluid and we continue consulting daily with health officials, decision-makers and community partners. This includes hospitals, local and state governments, nonprofits, and CMU partners like Little Mavs and Eureka! Math and Science Center. We know this has been a difficult time for many and likely will remain so for the foreseeable future. We will get through this together as a campus community. Questions and concerns may be directed to safety@coloradomesa.edu. Thank you, as always, for your diligent work on behalf of CMU.

Best,

John Marshall
Vice President for Student Services
Colorado Mesa University
March 11, 2020

March 10, 2020

As you prepare for spring break, we want to share with you some updated information and recommendations about novel coronavirus. As our community's public health agency, it is our top priority to ensure the health and safety of residents of and visitors to Mesa County.

As you may know, there is currently a large global disease outbreak of novel coronavirus called COVID-19. The outbreak has now spread to many locations in the U.S. including Colorado. Although we haven't yet seen cases in Mesa County, we are taking steps to ensure that we are prepared for when the virus arrives in our community. We understand that new viruses like this can be worrisome. Here are some simple things that you can do to reduce your risk and ensure an enjoyable spring break:

- Stay up-to-date on CDC's [Travel Health Notices](#) and avoid travel to areas that have seen sustained community transmission of coronavirus. Currently, those locations include: mainland China, Iran, South Korea, Italy, and Japan. Within the U.S., community transmission has occurred in Washington State, Northern California, and Southeastern New York.
- Practice simple prevention measures that will prevent the spread of COVID-19 (and other germs).
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water (if unavailable, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol).
 - Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing.
 - Avoid close contact with anyone who is sick.
 - Stay home if you are sick.
- Masks are not recommended for people who are currently healthy (not experiencing symptoms) to prevent the spread of germs. Masks are only recommended for people experiencing symptoms and for healthcare workers.

Upon returning from any travel, it is important to watch for the development of any respiratory symptoms (such as a cough, fever, or difficulty breathing). If you develop symptoms, call your healthcare provider first. Do not go to the facility in-person unless directed by phone or if it's a medical emergency.

The COVID-19 outbreak is changing rapidly and Mesa County Public Health is providing updated information on a dedicated Coronavirus web page here: <https://health.mesacounty.us/covid19/>.

Thank you,