

We were saddened to learn earlier today that Colorado has experienced its first fatality from the COVID-19 pandemic. As of this afternoon, there are still no diagnosed cases in Mesa County or on the CMU campus. Below you will find new updates and guidance for the campus community, in addition to ongoing updates to the CMU COVID-19 [information website](#).

### **Large Gatherings**

Earlier today, the State of Colorado [issued guidance](#) for large gatherings intended to slow the proliferation and spread of COVID-19. The guidance is based on information and data specific to pandemic response goals from federal, state and local public health experts.

Governor Jared Polis [announced](#) all events of 250 or more people should be curtailed until further notice. This new guidance will impact a number of upcoming campus events and the university has immediately begun work to modify, postpone, or reschedule these events. Such actions are meant to support Colorado's efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19, and to reduce the risk of overwhelming hospitals and health providers. CMU also recognizes the spirit of the state guidance and will consider modifying or rescheduling events that include fewer than 250 people but may still increase the risk of spread. Effective immediately event organizers with questions about the appropriateness of a specific event (fewer than 250 attendees) should consult with their department head, supervisor or respective Vice President.

Below is an incomplete list of CMU events that will need to be modified, postponed or rescheduled:

- CMU Entrepreneurship Day
- Hotel Maverick Grand Opening
- Student life spring concert
- Academic conferences
- Performing arts and theatre events
- All athletic events based on NCAA, RMAC decisions
- Student Showcase
- Admissions-related events

Event coordinators and planners should also immediately contact external clients, customers and those holding facility reservations to discuss alternatives or event modifications.

### **Commencement**

CMU 2020 Commencement ceremonies are currently scheduled for Saturday, May 16. The decision on how the event will be altered will be considered as new information and state and federal guidance emerge. Due to the size, scope and importance of commencement to our students, CMU will continue to work with health officials and policy makers to develop a commencement celebration that is prudent, appropriate and worthy of the graduation tradition.

### **Human Resources and Sick Leave**

On Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> the CMU Director of Human Resources will provide campus with further direction about sick leave, absenteeism and other clarifications to include emergency state rulemaking released over the past few days regarding these topics.

As we head into the break, we are reminded of things we hold dear—family, friends, colleagues, and a shared mission to make a difference in the lives of our students. Have a safe and healthy break.

Best,

John Marshall  
Vice President for Student Services  
Colorado Mesa University