

Dear Campus Community -

Based upon changing conditions, CMU is making modifications to campus policy. These changes will reinforce a commitment to slowing the spread of COVID-19 in the community. The updates to CMU's plan are a result of a call to action from Colorado's Governor and health officials (see letter below) including a recently-issued state public health order.

Effective immediately:

- CMU Spring Break is officially extended by one week through March 29, 2020.
- Immediately following the extended Spring Break, CMU will resume academic instruction in an online format beginning March 30 continuing for the remainder of the Spring semester. The semester will still conclude on Thursday, May 14.

Online Learning

Faculty are moving forward to offer coursework online in a way that represents our institutional emphasis on quality teaching. Rare exceptions to the move online may be made for clinicals, internships, practicums and certain programs at WCCC, though factors external to CMU may affect scheduling in those categories. In the coming days, you should look for communication from your instructor via e-mail and the D2L course shell concerning plans for future schedules, assignments and course expectations. The adaptability of our students and instructors will be important to the success of this transition.

Public Health Order - Changes to Facility Operations

A [Colorado public health order](#) issued yesterday closed bars, restaurants, health clubs and a myriad of other public facilities for at least 30 days. In order to abide by this state directive and CMU social distancing goals, the following changes have been implemented.

Tomlinson Library

The library will remain open only to the campus community and will require a MAVcard for access. The facility will remain open as an academic resources as well as for computer lab access. Inside the facility, social distancing, disinfecting and sanitizing will be emphasized.

Campus Dining Services

CMU and Sodexo are committed to providing reliable food service for students who live on campus. The method for delivering healthy food will change to accommodate best protections for students. The Caf will implement a new Grab 'N Go concept. Other campus dining services will be reduced, and current offerings and hours can be found [here](#).

Residence Halls

Residence halls will remain open to students who have elected to remain on campus. The Office of Residence Life will be distributing more details to on-campus students in a separate email, to be sent out shortly. Questions can be directed to 970.248.1536 or reslife@coloradomesa.edu.

Campus Recreation

Luckily, spring has sprung in the Grand Valley opening up countless opportunities for outdoor recreation. In compliance with the previously mentioned Public Health order, CMU has closed the Hamilton Recreation Center, Maverick Pavilion, Lucero Hall Fitness Center and Montrose Campus Fitness Center for the next 30 days. Anyone with questions related to membership,

accessing lockers or any other matter surrounding campus recreation should email Lynn Wilson at lwilson@coloradomesa.edu.

Employee Guidance and Remote Work

Per earlier guidance in an email from President Foster, CMU intends to continue business operations, albeit in a changed format. Supervisors will be working with their departments/units promoting employee remote work, where practical. In those instances where a physical on-campus presence is necessary, we will work to create appropriate social distancing.

Faculty and staff should also review [Department of Personnel and Administration Q&A](#) regarding specific questions about revised guidance for sick leave, caring for dependents and related questions, especially in light of MCS51 closure through April 10. Follow-up questions should be directed to supervisors or the Human Resources office.

Student Campus Jobs and Work Study

While campus operations change and are scaled back in some areas, some student employment may be affected. Students should communicate with supervisors about availability and financial needs to address student work questions.

Commencement

Conversations about how to modify the Spring 2020 Commencement are ongoing and updates will be provided to campus as soon as possible.

Volunteering

“Stepping forward so people in vulnerable populations can step back.”

CMU is part of the community-wide effort to slow the spread of COVID-19. Striking the right balance between maximizing social distance and protecting Mesa County’s vulnerable populations isn’t simple. Many community volunteers are retirees and people whose age makes them highly vulnerable to the virus.

Local health officials and hospitals have asked CMU for volunteers. Volunteers are needed at local COVID-19 testing centers, information call centers and area hospitals. At risk volunteers within vulnerable populations need relief from those less susceptible to adverse impacts from the virus.

Opportunities for CMU students, faculty, and staff to step forward can be [found here](#).

We remain committed to working quickly and diligently to address the needs of the campus community including students, faculty, staff, as well as our community partners and other external stakeholders. Your patience is deeply appreciated during this time of uncertainty and rapidly changing information. We’re all in this together and the spirit of the Mavily is alive and well. Please continue to take care of yourselves and each other.

Best,

John Marshall
Vice President for Student Services
Colorado Mesa University

March 16, 2020

Good afternoon,

Over the weekend, the first positive case of COVID-19 was identified in Mesa County. With what we know about this illness coupled with the fact that significantly more testing is occurring, we anticipate the number of cases to increase in the days to come. Mesa County Public Health is closely monitoring the outbreak and leading the response in coordination with community partners.

If you have visited areas that are known to have sustained community spread (certain foreign countries, other states with common spread, or Summit, Eagle, Pitkin, and Gunnison counties in Colorado), and were in public locations such as retail shops, restaurants, bars, or ski lodges, we recommend that you watch for symptoms. Self-quarantine is an option; however, the CDC states that transmission of the disease in the absence of symptoms is less likely.

For anyone infected with COVID-19, symptoms will occur within 14 days of exposure (but most likely within 6 days). **At the first sign of symptoms, you must isolate yourself.** Symptoms for COVID-19 include cough, fever, and shortness of breath. **Isolation means you must stay home and away from others until 48 hours after the last symptom has gone away (the duration of the illness can vary from a few days to several weeks).**

For anyone who has not visited an area with sustained community spread, you can still be at risk. Mesa County expects to have sustained community spread soon. In order to keep your risk for contracting the disease low, please be diligent about following these guidelines:

- Stay at home and away from others, as much as possible.
- Avoid non-essential travel.
- Stay in touch with others by phone, email, or video.
- Maintain 6 feet of separation when you are around others.
- Frequently clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces like keyboards, phones, doorknobs, and light switches. The latest information suggests this virus can live on hard surfaces for up to three days.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol is acceptable.

We understand that new viruses like this can be worrisome. Mesa County Public Health is working hard to distribute accurate and timely information for our community through our coronavirus web page here: <https://health.mesacounty.us/covid19/>. Please distribute this website widely.

With all the information regarding the global, national, and State impact of COVID-19, we know that we in Mesa County can go beyond what others have done. Together, we can control the spread of illness and preserve the essential resources needed to protect those at greatest risk.

Thank you,



Jeff Kuhr
Executive Director