Good afternoon.

As the campus community continues to navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 global pandemic, here are some additional updates.

**STAY AT HOME ORDER**
On Monday, April 6, Governor Polis extended Colorado’s stay-at-home order (PHO 20-24) to last through April 26, 2020. To support and abide by the Governor’s request, CMU staff who are not deemed “essential” will continue to work remotely until Monday, April 27 or such time as the order is lifted.

- “Essential” staff with operational and support roles conducive to telecommuting should continue working remotely.
- Staff deemed “essential” should work with their direct supervisor to determine what if any ongoing physical presence on campus is appropriate.
- All CMU staff, faculty and students should review Mesa County Public Health social distancing and health practices relative to COVID-19 before returning to work. All on-campus work must conform with these practices.
- In-person meetings between essential staff should be avoided, and remote meeting platforms (i.e. Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.) should be used.
- All CMU staff should review the Governor’s order and familiarize yourself with its intent that extends beyond your role at CMU.

Courses that are not conducive to remote delivery and may only be conducted on-ground—primarily career/technical programs offered by WCCC—will tentatively resume on 4/27. Additional information has been provided by VP Brigitte Sundermann directly to students and faculty in these courses. Additional questions may be directed to klreuss@coloradomesa.edu.

**GRADING OPTIONS**
To ease some of the stress associated with course grades during our disrupted semester, CMU will allow students to choose a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (often referred to as “Pass-Fail”) grade option for course work taken for full-term, late start, and second module classes in Spring 2020.

- After grades have posted, the Registrar’s Office will provide students the ability—via a link to an electronic form—to select Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) as a grading option for their courses.
- S/U grades will have no effect, positive or negative, on institutional GPA or financial aid eligibility.
- Students should think through options for each course based on guidance we will provide in the electronic form, consultations with faculty, and discussions with academic advisors.

Choosing to be graded with S/U is not a good option in many situations. While the mechanics of the process are fairly straightforward, each student’s situation may add some complexity to the decision-making process. Students will receive an email from Dr. Kurt Haas, Vice President for Academic Affairs, with additional information and should also consult the [Overview and FAQ pages](#) to learn more.

**VIRTUAL RESOURCES FOR ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND WELLNESS**
As a reminder, our academic and student support services have moved to an online/virtual format to comply with the Governor’s stay-at-home order and support remote delivery of courses that will take place through the end of the semester. Among the services available via our [Virtual Resources site](#) are distance education, tutoring, library, mentors, and more. In particular, we want students to know they can access [mental health counseling](#) remotely if they need support. We are working every week to add
additional virtual fitness class videos. You can also join Associate Professor of Kinesiology Dr. Kristin Heumann live on Mondays and Wednesdays at 12pm MT for Zumba classes. Students should continue to utilize the IT Help Desk with questions about connectivity or access to their D2L courses.

COMMENCEMENT
We will hold a virtual commencement on May 16, 2020, and an alternate, in-person ceremony on August 1, 2020. Graduating seniors were invited to opt-in to either ceremony in a survey sent out via campus email. Graduating seniors who have not yet completed the survey should act now to select their commencement ceremony. For the virtual ceremony, in lieu of walking across the stage, we are asking students to submit a short (no more than 5 seconds) video for inclusion into the program. Details will be shared in the near future. Please refer to the commencement website for more information.

ON-CAMPUS RESIDENTS
While we have encouraged on-campus residents to return to their permanent homes, if possible and safe, we recognize that Colorado Mesa University has become home for many. Residence Life is remaining open and offering housing and food service to the few residents who have remained and need it. Our custodial staff have increased their efforts for sanitizing every surface, door knob, sink, and more, to help prevent illness and to keep our students safe. For questions and/or concerns, please contact us at reslife@coloradomesa.edu.

STAFF REDEPLOYMENT
Over the past couple of weeks, 80+ staff members (whose primary job has been impacted by COVID-19) have been redeployed to assist with two major institutional priorities: Recruitment and Retention (“Re-recruitment”). These efforts have included thousands of personal outreach phone calls to students, responding to emails and answering incoming calls, personalized mailings, etc. These and other “high-touch” activities will assist us in connecting with and supporting our students, and protecting the long-term health of the organization.

Finally, our campus was reminded yesterday in the most real and tragic terms possible of the grave effects of this pandemic. As we grieve the loss of a student, let’s continue to do our part to support one another and come together as a campus. Thank you for all you’re doing for CMU.

Best,

John Marshall
Vice President for Student Services
Colorado Mesa University