

******UPDATE March 11, 2020—RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19)******

Dear NMC Community,

Nebraska Methodist College continues to work on a response plan for COVID-19 with Methodist Health System and local health departments. An Incident Assessment Team made up of college personnel has been meeting weekly over the past 3 weeks and Cabinet has been meeting daily to ensure we are prepared if a COVID-19 outbreak occurs within our College campus. Specific protocols may include social distancing measures such as the cancellation of on campus activities and gatherings, suspending face-to-face instruction, and extended campus closures to protect against the spread of the illness.

As we continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation, the key will be flexibility. As of today, we will return from Spring Break and continue business as usual for face-to-face instruction and clinical on Monday, March 16th. Students will be back on campus, but want to ensure they are comfortable in the event face-to-face courses and labs need to go on-line. Many colleges and universities across the United States, and a few in our area, are already making the move.

Faculty—Please prepare now and have your face-to-face courses/labs online by Monday, March 23rd. All face-to-face courses/labs will move online on Monday, March 23rd. Campus at this time will remain open. Clinicals will continue at this time unless determined otherwise by the clinical site or your Dean. If this means coming in the next few days, please know you can adjust your shut down days later. If you need assistance this weekend, let your Dean know ASAP what support that might be, so we can have staff or resources available.

Academic leadership will be putting together communication for you to share with students to share a “call to action” and help reduce their anxiety. Faculty have the option on how you want to continue to provide instruction online; however, if you need WebEx or other technology NMC currently has available, please let your Dean and CREATE staff know ASAP so they can assist you in continuing to provide quality education to your students.

Staff—Your immediate supervisor should be briefing you about what you and your departments need to do if the college should suspend its on campus presence. We want to ensure NMC business can continue. Think about:

- What can you do from home?
- How will you track your work?
- What are your concerns?

All—I am sharing this information not to invoke fear, but to provide factual and timely information so you have time to prepare as needs arise. **This is an opportunity for our College community—educating future healthcare providers—to dig in, inspire, and innovate.** Thank you to those who are already preparing—COVID-19 is worldwide situation that is ever changing, so I need and appreciate all hands on deck. We will continue to monitor the situation and communicate pertinent updates.

Please note the following additional information:

Student Exposure: NMC currently has three students in self-quarantine for exposure to COVID-19 at Methodist Women’s Hospital emergency department. The program director and campus health staff have been in continuous contact with our students since their exposure ensuring communication with MHS and Douglas County Health Department.

Students in clinical settings: Methodist is not restricting student participation in clinical activities at this time. The issue that may arise is resource limitations (protective gear) and, if that is the case, may restrict students from participating. It is possible there may be a restriction to patients in isolation at some point.

At CHI and Children's, are not restricting student participation in clinical activities at this time, though there is a self-assessment process for physicians, staff and students to assess potential risk. The VA is restricting student access to COVID-19 patients and Brookstone Village has suspended student access at this time. Please report any facilities that are restricting or suspending student's participation to you Academic Dean.

Face-2-Face Instruction: Our Nursing and HP programs are moving face-to-face instruction online on March 23rd. PD is on a program-by-program basis—please check with your Dean. This decision has been made thoughtfully as we understand that this may cause challenges for both faculty and students with access, active learning, clinical learning, and some labs. Academic leadership, faculty support staff and student support staff are preparing accordingly and are ready to assist.

On Campus Activities: Methodist Health System has requested that all non-essential meetings be cancelled or postponed at this time. If we have evidence of community spread in our area, NMC will need to consider cancelling, postponing or moving to virtual format gatherings such as the planned meetings, continuing education programs, graduation, and CARE Days, and the like. We will be able to make a determination on these in the next few days and coming weeks.

Travel: All non-essential business/academic travel (employee and student) should be cancelled at least through June 30th. No new travel may be booked at this time—please see your VP if you feel your travel

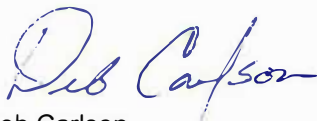
is essential. This included the TRIO Upward Bound and SSS students who were supposed to travel to Washington DC on Monday, March 9th.

Employees or students who traveled out of the country or cruise ships must self-reporting their travel and be cleared by Employee Health or Campus Health, respectively, before returning to work. Employees, please call 402-354-5684. Students, please call 402-354-7211. The screen takes about 10 minutes over the phone. Please do not report in person to Employee Health, Campus Health or your workstation before you have been cleared to return.

Facilities preparedness: NMC is limiting public access to campus to one entrance—Clark main entrance. Leinart Building front door access will be closed with all other access points being badge entry. We are not turning people away and business continues as normal for now. Rather, this is in an effort to have all visitors sign in. New signage at all entrances will instruct those entering to self-screen before entering the building. Over Spring Break, campus public spaces received a building deep, sanitizing clean and our community health stations were restocked with hand sanitizer, Kleenex, and Clorox wipes.

Again, thank you for your time, attention and preparation. More information will be forthcoming, as we know it. For questions and concerns, please reach out to your Vice President.

Take care and be well NMC,



Deb Carlson
President & CEO
Nebraska Methodist College