

******NMC STUDENT UPDATE March 12, 2020—RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19)******

Dear Future Healthcare Professionals,

Nebraska Methodist College continues to work on a response plan for coronavirus (COVID-19). Our Incident Assessment Team has been meeting weekly and the President's Cabinet is meeting daily to ensure NMC is prepared. The COVID-19 public health crisis is an opportunity for you as future healthcare professionals to dig in, stay positive, and practice compassion for one another.

Please note the following information:

- **Spring Break Extended & Face-to-Face Instruction Suspended**—Spring Break will be extended to include Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17. Face-to-face courses, labs and clinical are suspended until Wednesday, March 18. Classes will resume online starting Wednesday, March 18 until further notice to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Campus will remain open and student/academic support services remain available. Your Program Director will communicate with you if any skills checks and labs will require modified on campus attendance. Classes currently online will continue as scheduled.
- **Mandatory Travel Screen**—*Students who have traveled out of the United States, by cruise ships, by any air travel, or travel by any means to Washington State, New York City, California or Florida since March 1 must report their travel and be cleared by Campus Health before returning to class or clinical.* Call Campus Health @ 402-354-7211 or submit the online [Travel Screening Form](#) and a Campus Health representative will call you for a screening. Methodist Health System Infectious Disease personnel will review all screening information. The phone screen takes about 10 minutes; however, review and clearance may take up to 2 days. Do not report in person to your class/clinic before you have been screened and cleared to return. Be sure to communicate your recent travel with your Program Director and faculty—attendance policies will have flexibility for this process if you provide timely communication.
- **Professional Development**—Career courses and continuing education transition to online instruction will be determined on a program-by-program basis by its Dean.
- **Clinical Rotations**—Students are to report to clinical as scheduled unless contacted by the clinical facility or your Program Director. Most clinical sites are not restricting student participation at this time.
- **On Campus Activities**—*Non-essential on campus activities and gatherings through are cancelled through March 31.* 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 group meetings, continuing education programs, and the like.
- **Academic Travel**—*Non-essential academic student travel is cancelled through June 30.* No new travel may be booked at this time. If travel was previously booked using NMC funds, please see your Program Director, faculty member, or student group liaison for assistance.
- **Campus Facilities**—Public access to campus is limited to the Clark Building main entrance. Leinart Building front door access is closed with all other campus access points being badge entry. Remember to wear your badge. 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.
- **COVID-19 Exposure**—*If you believe you've been exposed to the Coronavirus or have symptoms (shortness of breath, flu like symptoms, fever, cough), please call Campus Health for a screening.*

*****If you are feeling ill at all, DO NOT ATTEND CAMPUS CLASS OR CLINICAL.***** It is your responsibility to communicate with your faculty member, Program Director, and preceptor prior to your absence. Please do not risk your health and safety or that of your classmates, faculty, staff, and patients if you are sick. Stay home and contact Campus Health or your health care provider by phone.

I am sharing this information not to invoke fear, but to provide factual and timely information so you have time to prepare. No matter if, courses/labs are delivered face-to-face or online, NMC is committed to supporting you holistically and believes in your success. Lastly, I ask that each of you continue to communicate and connect with our faculty, staff and each other, practice good hand hygiene and other preventative measures, and reach out to us as soon as you need help.

Please contact Lindsay Snipes, Chief Student and Institutional Success Officer and Interim Dean of Students, at lindsay.snipes@methodistcollege.edu for student needs, questions and concerns regarding NMC's response plan for COVID-19.

Take care and be well NMC,

Deb Carlson

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Nebraska Methodist College