

*****NMC EMPLOYEE/STUDENT UPDATE April 8, 2020—RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19)*****

Dear NMC Community,

I am proud of the efforts NMC employees and students have made in social distancing, working and learning from home, and practicing good hygiene in efforts to mitigate COVID-19 spread. Public health officials predict that cases of COVID-19 in Nebraska will peak sometime in late April and now is the time to do all we can to “flatten the curve.” Therefore, I am announcing that the **Nebraska Methodist College campus will close to all students, faculty, staff, and visitors effective Monday, April 13, 2020**, except:

- Employees identified as essential to continuity of NMC on campus operations;
- Students within our campus housing; and
- Limited number of students and faculty approved to complete critical program requirements.

Employees and students, including student workers, should not report to campus starting April 13, unless otherwise authorized. NMC has been planning for this scenario for several weeks and have engaged our Incident Assessment Team and Methodist Health System to determine those employees and students whose physical presence is necessary on campus. **All essential employees and students will receive an email from their Vice President or Program Director designating their ability to access campus.** We encourage you to contact your supervisor or Program Director with questions about your specific work or learning arrangements.

NMC’s campus will remain closed at least through May 15, 2020. During that time, we will re-assess and decide what level of campus access is appropriate going forward. I understand you may need to return to campus in the next few days to complete your transition away from campus; we will be flexible, but expect that all employees and students make their visit quick and follow CDC social distancing, preventative hygiene and masking guidance while on campus.

You must wear a mask while on campus. CDC guidelines state you may use homemade cloth face coverings instead of surgical masks and N-95 respirators. It is important that those critical supplies continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders. Further, all employees and students must badge enter through the main Clark entrance and sign in. Instructions for contractors and deliveries will be posted outside the main Clark entrance.

Online learning will be extended through the summer semester. Students—your program director will be contacting you with details specific to your academic progression in your program. Please reach out to your program director or academic advisor with questions or concerns. Student support resources remain available remotely and ready to assist. Please see the attached **Student FAQ** and **Student Resource Flyer** for more information.

NMC also will continue to work with and support Methodist Health System efforts in the COVID-19 pandemic. If available for volunteering within the health system, please be sure to submit your participation in the Labor Pool by Tuesday of each week. If you have already submitted your Labor Pool Form, thank you! There is no need to submit it every week unless your availability has changed.

Lastly, I would like to recognize that this week is Easter. Join NMC’s Ignite group Thursday, April 9 at 6:30pm for their virtual weekly gathering via Zoom. An email invite was sent earlier today. Ignite has also posted [virtual service listings](#) on MyMethodist. I understand that this can be a popular travel time, but please be aware that many states are under travel restrictions, and Nebraska’s governor has issued a 14-day self-quarantine for travelers returning to or entering the state.

I know this is a challenging time and that additional changes and campus restrictions will create more challenges for our employees and students alike. We will persevere together, but we must stay connected. Please let me know if there is anything NMC can do to help you and know we are thinking of you. Stay in touch with each other, be kind to one another, and reach out to our campus leadership and support services immediately if you are having trouble.

Take care and be well NMC,

Deb Carlson

Deb Carlson
President & CEO
Nebraska Methodist College