



February ushers in Winter storm and COVID concerns

1 message

President's Office

Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 8:58 AM

To: faculty, staff and Harrisonburg Students

Greetings campus community amidst the winter wonderland in H-burg.

As you know, the EMU campus in Harrisonburg is all virtual instruction today due to the winter storm this weekend. New this morning is that **we have decided to continue with virtual learning through Friday (Feb. 5) in order to devote greater time, care and resources to a precipitous rise in new COVID cases on campus in the past several days.** The Library will remain open for commuter students.

Currently, we have a significant number of positive cases, most are students in residence. This is a dramatic jump from a week ago when we reported four, which was up three from the week before. Our quarantine and isolation spaces are stretched and in short supply. **We need to take some additional hard measures this week—all of us—to stop the spread and ensure quality personal care, even as classroom learning continues uninterrupted.**

I know this is not the news you want to hear. I thank you in advance, especially our residential students, for giving extra effort to work together to stop the spread of the virus. This will mean some difficult, but necessary, quarantine in place measures. **New, stricter protocol around meals, athletic practices, and other campus activities will be shared with you through Student Life today.** We will look to reassign some staff across campus to assist with the additional challenges of managing larger caseloads and providing responsive and empathic care. If we do this well, these measures will be temporary—one week! Let's do this, EMU!!!

Warmly,

Susan

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