



EMU Campus Update

1 message

Parent Engagement Office <parent@emu.edu>
Reply-To: parent@emu.edu

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EMU Campus Update



Parent Engagement Office

Greetings Parents.

President Susan Schultz Huxman and Dean of Students Shannon Dycus have communicated with students, faculty and staff this morning with an important update.

Here is a summary of the information shared.

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.

Currently, we have a significant number of positive cases, with most among resident students. This is a dramatic jump from a week ago when we reported four, which was up three from the week before. (See the [EMU COVID-19 Dashboard](#) for more information). We need to take some additional measures this week—all of us—to stop the spread and ensure quality personal care, even as classroom learning continues uninterrupted. Our goal now is to prevent additional spread over the next several days. This means it will be an uncomfortable week, requiring that we change our habits, practice quarantine-in-place measures, and be extra vigilant.

We are asking students to follow these new, stricter protocols around meals, athletic practices, and other campus activities to ensure your safety:

- Wear your mask at all times. Even in conversation with close friends, stay masked. Even in your household group common spaces, stay masked. To be

most safe, you may choose to double mask whenever you are leaving your room.

- Report any symptoms to the COVID Hotline (540-421-3406). Do not try to diagnose yourself; the symptoms of COVID, colds and strep have significant overlap.
- Wash your hands regularly and use the wipes for surfaces in shared spaces.

The following changes will be in effect until Sunday, February 7:

- All classes will be virtual. Hop on Moodle and get clear instructions about accessing class from your professors.
- We will transition all of our in-person activities to be virtual. Check the myEMU calendar for Zoom links. Activities that cannot be engaged virtually will be postponed.
- Meals or beverages from the Royals Den or Common Grounds will be take-out only. Meals from the Caf can be dine-in or take-out. Dining will happen one person per table or carried back to your room. Please do not eat meals in public areas outside the dining hall.
- The Library will be open for use by commuter students only.
- The Fitness Center will be closed.
- There will be no athletic competitions or practices.
- Most students who have work-study jobs will continue to work. As able, your work may shift virtual. Check with your supervisor.

For additional information about quarantining in place, our COVID-19 hotline and care for students in isolation and quarantine, see the COVID FAQs page.

<https://emu.edu/coronavirus/faq#health>.

As always, please be in touch if you have questions or concerns.

Take care,

Jennifer

Jennifer North Bauman

Director of Alumni and Parent Engagement

1200 Park Rd.

Harrisonburg, VA 22802

540-432-4294

baumanj@emu.edu



Parent Engagement Office
Eastern Mennonite University
[1200 Park Road, Harrisonburg, Virginia, 22802](https://www.emu.edu/1200-Park-Road-Harrisonburg-Virginia-22802)
baumanj@emu.edu

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