

## Preparing for move-in and new in-person class dates

Wed, Sep 2, 2020 at 12:59 PM

From: **President's Office** <pres\_office@emu.edu>  
Date: Wed, Sep 2, 2020 at 12:53 PM  
Subject: Preparing for move-in and new in-person class dates  
To: <harrisonburg-students@emu.edu>



## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Greetings EMU Students,

I hope you are settling into your classes on-line as we enter Week Two. We are getting ready to welcome residential students to campus Sept 3-6. As we want you to be safe, healthy and informed during this most unusual of semesters, we are sharing some important updates to be aware of.

The current health environment in the city of Harrisonburg has changed significantly in the past week, in part due to the opening of James Madison University. The COVID-19 positivity rate in Harrisonburg city has recently risen sharply above the state average. This statistic, as monitored by the [Virginia Department of Health](#), is one factor we consider among others on a daily basis as we make decisions. It is impossible to predict further developments and shifts in community health, but it is an important piece of information for you to be aware of. Even as we are confident in our plans and the many increased safety measures we've implemented, EMU is not isolated from the greater Harrisonburg community. The events of the past week highlight the importance of strict adherence to the EMU Covid Commitments and the safety protocols we have established.

We acknowledge that this new information may cause uncertainty and stress. We are committed to answering your questions as best we can to help you make the best decision for your particular situation. If you feel a need to alter your move-in plans to a later date, our Residence Life staff are available to work with you. Look for an email from Shannon Dycus and Jon Swartz with more information shortly.

Most classes will remain online through Wednesday, Sept. 9, with most in-person classes beginning Thursday, Sept. 10. Lab and studio classes may begin earlier. This allows our residential students to transition more smoothly into a new living and learning environment and to give ample time for all campus community members to adopt our new health protocols as common and consistent practice.

We think we are especially well-equipped to live-in to these re-adjustments because we have built a reputation at EMU as a caring community, with small classes and personal attention. We are committed to creating a "culture of care" that expresses our values and maintains health and safety protocols. And we are counting on you to help us live-in to these new "COVID commitments" as we prepare to stay safe together.

Be well. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Susan Schultz Huxman, President  
Fred Kniss, Provost  
Shannon Dycus, Dean of Students

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