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## Update on COVID-19 Preparedness at EMU

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**Provost Office** <provost@emu.edu>

Sat, Mar 7, 2020 at 10:06 AM

To: all-faculty@emu.edu, all-staff@emu.edu, harrisonburg-students@emu.edu

Dear EMU campus community,

As the COVID-19 (coronavirus) situation continues to evolve and we resume from spring break, we know there are many questions. EMU is taking all necessary steps to protect the health and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff.

There are currently no reported cases in Virginia or the EMU community. At this time, we are continuing to hold classes and operate according to our normal schedule. We are closely monitoring updates and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Virginia Department of Health (VDH).

Visit [www.emu.edu/coronavirus](http://www.emu.edu/coronavirus) as a hub for updates, information and resources. We'll also be providing more information via email as the situation changes.

### Health and Wellness: What Can I Do?

The most effective steps you can take right now are to practice good hygiene such as regular and thorough hand washing and covering your mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.

Anyone exhibiting symptoms of respiratory illness (e.g., cough, fever, shortness of breath) should stay home from class and/or work, avoid others for the duration of the symptoms, and contact your health provider for guidance. If you are a student, use the RD on call as a helpful resource or call Health Services at 540-432-4308. Faculty and staff should contact their primary care physician, while also notifying Human Resources of any confirmed illness.

### Travel To and From Campus

Many students, staff and faculty are returning from spring break from various destinations which may or may not yet be affected by the COVID-19 virus. [\[View an updated map.\]](#) There is significant uncertainty regarding the spread of the virus at this time.

We are implementing two self-reporting measures in order to aid in monitoring the health of our community and in the considerable logistical planning currently underway to anticipate and meet community needs.

- If you travelled outside of Virginia during spring break or in the last 14 days, we urge you to participate in this self-reporting measure: [Fill out this form](#) to let us know where you have traveled outside of Virginia during spring break.
- Are you planning to travel outside of Virginia in the near future? Please use this form to provide us with basic information: [Fill out this form](#) to let us know about future travel.

Ongoing attention will be given to our cross cultural programs and other local student travels. The CDC and the U.S. Department of State urges citizens to avoid nonessential travel outside the U.S.

### Classes and Campus Operations

If the university decides to suspend instruction or close administrative offices, we will provide updates and recommendations for alternative methods of instruction and remote work. EMU follows a communicable disease and continuity of operations plan designed to maintain critical and student support functions (dining, housing, administrative functions, facilities management, etc.) during a closure or regional emergency.

Faculty, as you accommodate student illness, please do report attendance through Moodle to help us monitor student absence patterns. Expect additional information from school deans this week with resources to support academic continuity.

### EMU Together

This is a good time to remember that supporting and caring for one another is important. Stay connected with your friends and loved ones. Encourage anyone having a difficult time with this situation to use Student Life resources available on campus, including the [EMU Counseling Center](#) and [Campus Ministries](#). International Student Services continues to support students from affected countries.

We encourage you to visit our coronavirus [webpage](#) for updates and resources.

With leadership from our Crisis Management Preparedness Team ([cmptinfo@emu.edu](mailto:cmptinfo@emu.edu)), EMU is committed to take all appropriate actions to support and protect our community.

Sincerely,

**Shannon Dycus**, Dean of Students

**David Brubaker**, Dean of School of Social Sciences and Professions

**Suzanne Cockley**, Dean of School of Theology, Humanities and the Performing Arts

**Tara Kishbaugh**, Dean of School of Sciences, Engineering, Art and Nursing  
**Tim Stutzman**, Crisis Management Preparedness Team Chair, Vice President of Finance

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