

Dear Campus Community:

In a few minutes, we will be announcing to our students that the majority of our in-person classes will temporarily shift to some alternate form of delivery such as online or videoconferencing, as well as some in-person lab instruction due to necessity. Events, travel, and field trips are being cancelled or postponed for the immediate future. This decision was reached yesterday in consultation with our response team following new guidance from the state chancellor's office.

I want to assure you that there are no known health concerns on campus related to COVID-19 and that this change in delivery is being made to:

1. Ensure the health and safety of our students and employees;
2. Participate in the greater goals of "social distancing" which experts believe will slow the spread of Coronavirus; and
3. Responded to the concerns of our campus community

I want to emphasize the following:

1. **Our campus will remain open** with all staff reporting to work as scheduled;
2. We will continue to deliver limited services as described in the student email; and
3. Instruction will continue using various methods as described in the student email

You have no doubt already noticed many of our colleague institutions are enacting similar change. Our District wanted to have all the information available and evaluated so that we could make a reasoned and informed decision.

To facilitate these significant changes, we will use Friday, March 13; Monday, March 16; and Tuesday, March 17, for planning, implementation, and staff development. No classes will be held on those days so that we will have uninterrupted time to formalize or implement plans in each area of the campus.

As this week progressed, it became clear that responding to concerns of potential illness (reports of sick students or faculty, rumors that this or that student was exposed to someone with COVID-19, etc.) was creating a strain on campus resources and staff that we could not support. This is especially true in the Health Center, where staff is running out of personal protective equipment and unable to obtain a re-supply, and for our custodial crew, who were tasked with additional, high-detail sanitization above and beyond their normal cleaning routine.

[Linked](#), you will find the communication we are sending to students. Please take a moment to review all this information. You should also have received information from the District regarding the change.

This will be a challenging transition, but I know that we will rise to meet it in true Cypress College fashion. I encourage you to have robust dialogue in your areas to ensure that we provide the best instruction and service possible to our students.

I thank you for all your flexibility, and the teamwork you have shown in helping us address this fast moving crisis. Your input is appreciated and we will continue to update you as we move forward.

JoAnna Schilling