



March 18, 2020

Dear Campus Community,

The information and guidelines concerning how to contain and stop the spread of COVID-19 are changing by the hour. We recognize that despite the steps we have taken as a campus, there continues to be growing concern about COVID-19 as the nation puts more concentrated effort on trying to prevent the spread of the virus.

In the past few days, you have likely heard new executive orders by Governor Evers extending to the closure of bars and restaurants and limiting gathering sizes. While there are no confirmed cases yet in our area, our campus is continuing to monitor the rapidly changing environment.

In light of these recent announcements, we have decided to take several additional steps for the rest of the semester:

- **We will shift to alternate delivery of courses from March 30 through the end of the spring semester, including final exams.** Students will receive information about instruction as plans are completed.
- In addition, we advise those students who have opted to travel away from Superior for spring break to carefully consider whether they need to return to Superior or can continue the semester from their permanent residence.
- Students currently in residence halls who cannot return home or who are unable to access alternate course delivery from elsewhere may apply for an exception to remain in the residence halls. Limited dining services will continue to be open. Residents will be receiving a follow up message shortly.
- All students will receive an email about how to access student support services including advising, registration, tutoring, disability services, student health and counseling and more. We are committed to providing the best possible set of student support services for every student no matter where they are at this time. We WILL be there for you!
- **University employees will complete the transition toward a minimized on-campus staffing model today, with most employees telecommuting.** We are

intentionally reducing the number of employees physically on the campus in order to fight the spread of COVID-19. Thank you to all of our employees for your swift, efficient cooperation in this accelerated plan. You have been terrific! **This minimized staffing model will continue until further notification by administration.**

- Decisions about commencement have not yet been made. There will be a ceremony, but exactly how it looks has not yet been determined. We want to honor the achievement of our students who have worked so hard to make it to the finish line.
- **Anyone, employee or student, who has traveled to California, Illinois, New York or Washington, traveled through airports in these states, resides with those who have done so, or has returned from a [Level 3 CDC designated country](#) since Monday, March 16, MUST self-isolate for 14 days before returning to campus.**

Of utmost importance in making these decisions were:

- Our commitment to protect the health and well-being of our students and employees – we care about you and you are our number one priority. Our PEOPLE (students and employees) are our most valuable resource and the most important consideration in all decisions.
- Our commitment to providing a coherent and high-quality academic experience for our students, which means effectively focusing on delivering great course design in alternate delivery modes (such as online), and implementing these changes with as little disruption as possible.
- Our commitment is to our students successfully completing their courses in Spring 2020, and graduating. The success of our students is our mission.

I know that this announcement may leave questions about reimbursements, personal belongings, and a host of other issues. You will be receiving more information about these issues and processes. Please be patient as there will be a steady flow of important communications today and tomorrow to help clarify these questions.

I also understand that this news is disappointing for all—both our students and employees. This is not the semester that any of us envisioned. My heart goes out to each of you for all the fear, anxiety and disruption that this has involved. Perhaps the one consolation is that we are joining in the global fight to flatten the curve and stop this virus. This is one of those events that affects not just our university but those around our country and globe. Even now, the situation is changing rapidly, and we will continue to provide updates as soon as we have them.

I truly believe that we are a Small but Mighty university. Yellowjackets are feisty creatures who don't give up. Our strength IS our size because it's personal for us. Together, we will get through this—and be stronger for it. Together, we are One University.

We are Superior.

Renée

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