

March 16, 2020



Dear colleagues and friends in the Misericordia University Community,

Please let me begin by thanking each of you for your extraordinary compassion, empathy, and caring for others in our campus and nearby communities. As we move through this rapidly changing and difficult response to COVID-19, it has been reassuring to see how many of you are working to keep students on track in their courses, assuring colleagues that you will be there for them through a variety of personal and family challenges, and just doing the right thing for others. Although the campus is a bit quieter, and likely to become even more so, Catherine McAuley's statue reminds us of our charisms and call to serve others. As always and especially now, thank you for teaching me about how to do just that with class, compassion, and calm.

We can fully expect that what we know now will change many times in the upcoming hours, days, and weeks. Certainly, we will expect new federal and state mandates and recommendations that are different from our typical laws, regulations, and guidelines. We will follow them to the best of our ability. We'll also receive more information on the medical response to COVID-19 and how our communities will alter our normal routines.

You will continue to receive updates to our previous communications from the COVID-19 Emergency Response Task Force (Bob Zavada, David Rehm, Kit Foley, Erin Burns Kilduff, and Mark Van Etten). I assure you that we will continue to revise, alter, and move forward with our plans as we get more information and understanding of what we can do. Please read the documents carefully and look for additional communications.

Please allow me to highlight some thoughts related to our own sense of community:

1. If you get sick, stay home. Details will be provided in an update for consultation of health care providers, sick leave, and self-quarantine.
2. If you have a need related to your health, the health of someone in your home, or child care or similar needs, please let your supervisor and our Human Resources colleagues know. You and your family come first. If you need to stay home, stay home.
3. While we aren't teaching and learning in our typical residential model, the university remains open. Many of us are essential to delivery of courses and curriculum. I thank the faculty and staff colleagues who have moved forward rapidly with online and remote learning options. Others of us need to do what keeps us operating as normally as possible. Thank you in advance for your understanding and flexibility.
4. All full-time faculty and staff employees will continue to be paid at the level they received prior to the COVID-19 disruption. Health insurance and all other benefits will continue as usual.
5. Enhanced cleaning efforts will continue as we simultaneously work to reduce the density of those remaining on campus.
6. Adjusted work schedules and leave processes are being discussed; details will be released shortly.

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