



301 Lake Street, Dallas, PA 18612-1090

To: Misericordia University Campus Community
From: Thomas J. Botzman, Ph.D., President
Date: March 4, 2020
Subject: COVID-19 Preparation

In light of concerns of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) by everyone, I would like to inform you how we are responding. Misericordia University is currently taking steps to address and prevent the community spread of COVID-19. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the most important thing we can do right now is plan and prepare.

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) virus, and we are learning more about it every day. There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. At this point, the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes it. Stopping transmission of the virus through everyday hygiene practices, and staying home when sick is the best way to keep people healthy.

To address prevention on campus, I have called together a senior administrative team (Kit Foley, David Rehm, and Mark VanEtten) along with Director of Campus Safety, Bob Zavada, who is responsible for emergency preparedness, and charged them with monitoring the progress of COVID-19 and leading our campus plan. Other members of our administration and campus community will be included as needed. We will utilize CDC and Department of Health recommendations and be in regular contact with our local Department of Health.

Within 48 hours, you will receive the first of many communications from the team. In an effort to maintain a safe and healthy environment in which to learn and work, I ask that you follow the recommendations of the team. Each one of us plays an important role in preventing the community spread of COVID-19. The team is committed to keeping the community informed and as safe as possible. You will receive regular communication from the team, and I ask that each of you take the time to read the new information and continue to follow their recommendations.

Thank you in advance, for your cooperation and support of this important community effort. This is an important time for our community to work together to keep everyone as healthy as possible.