

March 13, 2020

Dear New England College Community,

Earlier today I sent an update message regarding important steps the College is taking to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 on our community. However, based on developments over the course of the day today, including President Trump's declaration of a national emergency, I have determined that it is appropriate to shift from in-person classes to a remote format beginning this Wednesday, March 18, 2020. There will be no classes this Monday and Tuesday in order for all to prepare for this plan. While the State of New Hampshire and our immediate areas continue to experience few confirmed cases of COVID-19, we are taking this action out of an abundance of caution for the safety of our community.

Please carefully review the following details regarding this plan:

- Campuses will remain open and further information will be provided in the coming days about reduced access to facilities. This plan will include closing academic buildings so that cleaning and other preventative efforts can be focused on the residence halls, dining facilities, and other open facilities. Students are welcome to stay on both of our campuses.
- Should a student choose to move home, they will not be permitted to return without prior approval. Students may leave behind belongings, but will not be given regular access to retrieve belongings. Arrangements will be made at a future date to retrieve any remaining items.
- Classes will take place in virtual format until April 3, 2020, at which time the College will determine the plan for the remainder of the semester. Students will receive information from their faculty about next steps in continuing classes remotely.
- Faculty will facilitate classes from off campus. Only essential staff will return to campus. Staff are to report to campus on Monday and will receive further information on their status and plans for working from home from their supervisors.
- The Dining Halls in Henniker and Manchester remain open.
- The Wellness Center in Henniker remains open.
- Students in Manchester should continue to utilize local medical providers as needed.
- Essential services, including Campus Safety, Residential Life, and Housing will continue to operate on both campuses.
- Students who remain on campus should continue to practice social distancing. Guests are not permitted on campus or in the residence halls besides those who are coming to assist students who are leaving campus.
- As of this writing, Commencement is still on for Saturday, May 9th, at both campuses. We will continue to evaluate this as circumstances warrant.

Students, please continue to check your NEC email regarding more specific details on these plans including other support services.

While this news is undoubtedly disappointing and unsettling to our community, please know that the College continues to make every effort to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. We find ourselves in a unique and difficult circumstance, but our highest priority remains safety and well-being of our students. I am grateful to our faculty and staff for their flexibility, good spirit, and commitment to the educational enterprise at our College.

Sincerely,

Michele D. Perkins, President