



March 27, 2020

Dear Pilgrim Nation,

Below please find your update from the COVID-19 Taskforce for Friday, March 27, 2020. Before we move into the announcements from Student Development, Academic Affairs, and Financial Services, we thought we'd share our thoughts on Governor Sununu's "Stay at Home" Executive Order from yesterday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Yesterday afternoon the Governor issued an executive order that urged residents of New Hampshire to stay home. The particulars of this order are consistent with past requests that individuals not gather in large groups (less than 10) and avoid going out and interacting with others whenever possible. What's different in this particular order is the Governor's request that certain, non-essential businesses close until May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to prevent the spread of the Corona virus. In reviewing the details of the plan, it is clear that higher education in general and New England College in particular are not considered non-essential businesses. We are, in fact, essential, and therefore, barring any additional decisions from the Governor, will remain open and continue to support the students living on our campuses in Henniker and Manchester. In fact, even if the Governor were to determine that we had to close our campus, we would continue with our remote education. So, classes will go on.

Please be sure to read to the end for important and exciting news!

### **An Update from Student Development**

***Students: It is important that you check your email daily. We may be looking for a response from you regarding housing or other services.***

#### **Students Opting to Head Home**

*Reminder:* If a student chooses to head home given the news regarding classes remaining remotely facilitated for the remainder of the semester, please bring all of your belongings with you, if possible. If it is not possible, you must notify Residential Life at [moveout@nec.edu](mailto:moveout@nec.edu) that you are leaving items behind to be picked up by the end of the semester following the process mentioned below. Friends/family coming to pick up students should not enter the residence halls except to assist in carrying belongings outside.

#### **Students who left Belongings in the Residence Halls**

Information will be sent out to residential students soon regarding the process to retrieve belongings left behind in the residence halls. Because we need to limit the number of folks in a residence hall at any given time in compliance with proper social distancing, students will need to sign up for a day/time to retrieve their belongings. This process will begin as soon as possible and run through the end of the semester. Our goal is to have that process be as smooth as possible for all involved. *Students may not return to retrieve belongings without explicit written permission from the College.*

#### **Students Staying on Campus**

The Governor of New Hampshire has instituted a "Stay-at-Home Order" meaning that everyone should stay in their residence except for essential reasons such as to visit the grocery store or pharmacy. All non-essential businesses will close in NH as of tonight. Students who have chosen to remain on campus are expected to follow these important guidelines. More information can be found at: <https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-media/emergency-orders/>



As an important reminder, all students who have chosen to stay on campus must follow the following protocols:

- Students staying on campus *should only travel off campus for essential reasons* such as work, to go to the grocery store, or pharmacy. Students are not permitted to return to campus after overnight trips or trips out of the state of New Hampshire.
- *Absolutely no guests are allowed on campus* except those here to pick up students to go home. This includes commuters or students who have moved home/off-campus. Those coming to pick up students should not enter the residence halls except to assist in carrying belongings outside.
- Students should practice social distancing – the CDC recommends keeping at least 6 feet of distance with others in public, social settings, etc.
- Remember that all policies and procedures are in place and we expect students to follow policies completely. Area Coordinators and RAs are on campus and ready to assist you! Please look for signs in your residence hall about how to contact those staff members.

***Students who are found not following these guidelines will be asked to leave campus immediately.***

#### Housing Selection

Information regarding Room Selection was sent to residential students earlier this week. ***Students, please be sure to be checking your email daily for important updates.***

#### Update on Dining Hall Hours

To continue to keep students safe, as well as the staff in the dining halls, the hours for food take-out **will move to 11:00 am – 6:00 pm effective today, Friday, March 27th**. Students will have the option to take a breakfast meal with them the night before to ensure they have food available for breakfast.

#### An Update from Academic Affairs

There are two important updates to share involving our students generally and our seniors in particular.

First, this week we shared with the community an update to the **Pass/No Record (P/NR)** option for students. Pass or No Record are grade designations for students who have concerns about their performance in a class. Usually, students are limited to 16 credits total in their four years at NEC. Also, under normal circumstances, students cannot use the pass or no record option for courses in their majors other than internships. However, in an effort to support student success in the transition from face-to-face to remote teaching and learning we are making an exception for the Spring 2020 semester. Any student may work with their faculty member to change their grade to P/NR in a current course that is now in remote delivery. Students will have until the last day of classes to make this change. If you have questions about this option please contact your faculty member, your advisor, or the Office of the Registrar.

Second, I want to share with you an important update about Commencement 2020. Following the announcement that commencement would be moved to virtual, we received some very constructive and thoughtful feedback from members of the Class of 2020. In response to that President Perkins asked that the VPAA work with students to consider an alternative. I am very pleased to announce that we have come up with an alternative that has been shared with numerous members of the Senior class. Specifically, President Perkins has asked that we consider holding Commencement 2020 this Fall with a date to be determined. And



at her request, we are now working on the logistics of making this happen. At this time, we are not prepared to announce a day or time. But, it is in the works! I hope you will agree that this is a very exciting development.

Logistics aside, there is one challenge we must all consider. We do not know when normal campus operations will resume. If we are not cleared to host a mass gathering event like Commencement in the Fall, we will not do so. The safety and well-being of our community is our President's top concern. And all of us want to make sure we take every precaution. That said, if we can make this work, we are looking forward to welcoming our Seniors back for Commencement this Fall. More details will follow. So, stay tuned!

Thanks for reading and have a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,

The New England College Senior Team