

Coronavirus Update #4, March 17, 2020

Extending Remote Instruction Through End of Spring Semester

To ACPHS Community,

During this time of uncertainty and rapid change, I want to reiterate that we are working tirelessly to honor our core principles to:

- ensure the health and safety of our community;
- offer our students the best learning experience possible;
- maintain high-quality services, even if they must be at a distance; and
- remain a connected and caring community.

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, we must all draw upon our resilience, strength and patience as we're being asked to continue to adapt to the increasing community mitigation efforts to stop the spread of the virus. I know we are up for the challenge and am thrilled that nearly 500 students, faculty and staff participated in our Student Town Hall today to discuss our latest decisions and ask questions.

Extending Remote Instruction Through End of Spring Semester

While there are no cases of coronavirus at ACPHS at this time, we have decided to extend remote instruction through the end of this semester to do our part to help "flatten the curve" and reduce community transmission of the coronavirus. Remote instruction will begin 3/23. We will be compressing content into the existing semester, not extending the semester.

I want to reiterate that during this week of extended spring break, there will be no instruction to enable us to transition to remote instruction, and develop alternative learning options, assessment tools and grading policies.

Moving forward, all class lectures will be recorded. The Office of Academic Affairs is working diligently with faculty and staff to provide more information, including guidance on lab courses and Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiences (IPPEs).

Continuing Experiential Education

Domestic Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs) will continue as scheduled unless you are contacted by the Office of Experiential Education. If your site restricts access or changes

relevant policies, please email [Courtney Caimano](#). For Clinical Laboratory Science students, rotations will continue as scheduled. If you have questions, please email [Amanda Philips](#).

Cancelling All Student Programming Events

All student programming events are cancelled on both Albany and Vermont campuses until further notice. This includes all in-person meetings, on campus and off campus events. All spring sports schedules have also been discontinued. We are sorry these schedules have been disrupted and will miss seeing Panther teams in action.

Student groups are encouraged to stay connected by holding virtual meetings and events. Student Engagement and Residence Life are already brainstorming creative ways to continue to engage with students.

Suspending All College-Supported Travel

We are suspending all college-supported domestic and international travel to any country until further notice. Therefore, any students scheduled for international APPEs will be contacted to make alternative arrangements.

Keeping Campus Open

The campus will remain open, but students are strongly encouraged not to return to campus. We have a process in place to assess which students will be allowed to remain in the residence halls. If you have questions regarding housing, please email [Alison Buckley](#).

Students who have been approved to stay on campus must still take classes through remote instruction and interact remotely with campus offices, staff and faculty.

Research graduate students and employees who cannot perform their job remotely will continue to be on campus. All other employees have been directed to work remotely.

Retrieving Belongings from Residence Halls

Resident students were emailed today an online form to indicate if they need to return to campus to retrieve belongings. Residence Life will be contacting these students with more details on when they may come to campus.

Closing and Reducing Campus Services

We are closing and reducing services on both campuses. The Division of Student Affairs recently emailed these details to all students. A complete list of closed/reduced campus services will also soon be on our website. To ensure we continue to provide an exceptional student experience, many of our campus services are being offered remotely including library services, tutoring, advising and counseling.

Likely Changing Format for Commencement

Based on the latest restrictions regarding large gatherings, it is likely we will need to change the format of commencement. We will promptly notify you when that decision has been made.

Discussing Student Refunds

We understand that the decisions the College makes during this pandemic have financial implications. Please be assured that answers and additional information will be forthcoming. We will do all we can with the resources we have to do what is fair for the students.

More Answers Will be Forthcoming

I know these changes will be an adjustment and understand there will be questions around many issues. While we will continue to update our campus community, if you have questions in the meantime please email coronavirusquestions@acphs.edu or call Sue Conroy at (518) 694-7326 Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Please routinely check your email and read emails with Coronavirus Update in the subject line. We will also post the latest information on our [ACPHS coronavirus web page](#) and social media platforms as soon as we can, but sometimes there is a delay. So please use the latest email update as the most current information.

While this is a challenging time, it's also an opportunity to be creative and innovative. I'm confident working together we can continue to provide an exceptional student experience and engage employees remotely. We appreciate your patience as we make the needed adjustments to protect our campus community while delivering an excellent education.

Greg Dewey
ACPHS President