

March 12, 2020

Dear Vanguard Community,

As I am sure you have heard, yesterday, (March 11, 2020), the Arkansas Department of Health confirmed one “presumed positive” case of COVID-19 in Arkansas. In addition, Governor Asa Hutchinson declared a public health emergency in the State of Arkansas and issued an order restricting all out-of-state travel for state employees for 60 days. Finally, a small number of colleges and universities have temporarily suspended classes or moved instruction online due to students and/or employees having contact with the presumed positive case.

At this time, and out of an abundance of caution, I am taking additional actions to ensure the health and safety of our students and employees.

COLLEGE TRAVEL RESTRICTION

All college-funded/sponsored out-of-state travel is suspended until further notice. Gale Long is working to cancel any current airline reservations, etc. She will contact and coordinate with each employee impacted.

PERSONAL TRAVEL CONSIDERATIONS

CDC is currently warning people to avoid all non-essential travel to any area listed as [Warning Level 3](#). Also, any areas classified by the U.S. State Department as [Level 4](#), are similarly restricted. Any ASU-Beebe student, faculty or staff who travels from or through a region listed on either travel advisory should be aware of potential for quarantine upon return to the United States.

While most of us will not travel to those Warning Level 3 and Level 4 areas, students, faculty, and staff should take into consideration potential impacts of any travel – official or personal – and take appropriate precautions to limit their exposure to the novel coronavirus. ***Known exposure would necessitate a 14-day quarantine before returning to campus.***

POTENTIAL CAMPUS CLOSURES

In preparation for the potential closure of one or more of our campuses and to provide for the continuity of Student Learning, Dr. Goodner is asking all faculty to begin to make plans for alternative means of instruction, should that become necessary. Dr. Goodner will provide guidance and direction to faculty directly.

Again, I want to emphasize that there have been no cases of COVID 19 among ASU-Beebe faculty, staff, or students at this time. The risk to our campus community is minimal at this point; however, we want to be prepared should conditions change. As we learned yesterday, conditions

can change rapidly. Executive Council, the Emergency Management Committee, our four appointed Pandemic/COVID 19 Task Forces, our System Office, the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, and I are constantly monitoring conditions and in continuous communication and planning. The risk to our campus community is minimal at this point; however, we want to be prepared should conditions change.

PREVENTION

Again, please remember that prevention is key. Please stay home and notify your healthcare provider by phone immediately if you are ill, have flu-like symptoms, or have a fever. Students who are ill should contact their instructors as per the course syllabus directions. Employees should contact their immediate supervisors. Please help us to continue to keep the Vanguard Community healthy by practicing the actions suggested by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/prevention.htm>).

I will continue to provide updates as they develop. My thanks for your diligence in helping us prevent the spread of germs.



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