

From: [EMCC President](#)
To: [all_emcc](#); [all_students](#)
Subject: Phase I Campus Return--Small Groups ONLY
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 12:18:34 PM

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students:

East Mississippi Community College continues to monitor information associated with the coronavirus. After reviewing information shared by the Mississippi State Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and higher education colleagues from across the state, the senior administration has created a careful, informed, and measured approach to safely return to campus. We are tentatively targeting Monday, May 11 to begin Phase I of this plan-**pending relevant guidance from Governor Tate Reeves regarding the current Safer at Home order.**

- **Beginning Monday, May 11, 2020, certain courses requiring hands-on assessment and instruction will be allowed to return to campus in small groups observing strict health and safety precautions and cleaning protocols.** Instructors will contact impacted students directly to schedule lab times in accordance with social distancing requirements.
- **Unless your supervisor indicates otherwise, all faculty and staff are asked to continue working remotely.** Your dean or director will notify you if your program is subject to the small group instruction protocol referenced above.
- **All faculty or staff who return to campus as part of Phase I must comply with physical distancing requirements issued by the CDC.** Additionally, staff may be asked to check their temperature at home prior to reporting for work to verify that they are not exhibiting symptoms of the virus.
- **While on campus, face coverings should be worn by all students, staff, and faculty when the job or circumstances put them within six feet of others.**
- **All labs and instructional areas serving students will be required to adhere to strict disinfection and sanitation protocols.** These protocols will be prominently displayed in each lab or instructional area.
- **All campus locations will remain closed to the general public** to prioritize safely serving current students who need to complete their hands-on coursework for the spring semester, while minimizing non-critical campus attendance.
- **The campus libraries, residence halls, bookstores, and campus dining services will remain closed.**
- **All on-campus camps and special events remain canceled through the end of June.**
- **Virtual Awards Day:** On Tuesday, May 19 at 5:00PM we will release a virtual awards day ceremony to honor students who have received academic distinction in their area of study. Additional information will be available closer to the date and will be shared on our social media accounts.
- **Virtual Graduation:** We will host a virtual graduation ceremony on Wednesday, May 20 at 7:00PM. The ceremony will be broadcast to the institution's YouTube page and will remain active for several weeks. Stay tuned to our social media accounts for additional information on this virtual ceremony along with the link to watch it.
- **Summer Instruction:** EMCC will offer a Maymester term, full summer term and two summer intensive terms online in a virtual format. Interested students should reach out to their

advisor to register TODAY. For a list of available summer classes, please click [here](#).

- **Fall classes:** At this point we are planning to resume fall classes in the variety of formats including face-to-face, online, and hybrid options. Given the uncertainty surrounding the novel coronavirus, if guidance emerges that changes these plans, we will let you know as soon as we are able.

As we transition, together, through this phased reopening, the college will continue to monitor the situation and will implement additional safety protocols as needed.

As always, we encourage you to continuously monitor our website, social media, college emails, Canvas, and text message alerts for updates and information.

Sincerely,

Scott Alsobrooks, Ph.D.
President
East Mississippi Community College