

From: EMCC President
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 9:38 PM
To: all_emcc; all_students
Subject: [All_emcc] Coronavirus Update March 23, 2020

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students:

Late this evening, we were notified by the Noxubee County Health Department that a member of our campus community tested positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19). Immediately after receiving notification, EMCC administrators coordinated with local health authorities to reach out to anyone with whom the employee may have come into close contact with. This individual has not been on campus for several days, so we believe the risk of anyone developing symptoms from exposure to this individual is likely very low. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, we will conduct a thorough decontamination and sterilization of all facilities this individual may have come in contact with. This individual is currently recovering well and is at home in self-isolation.

While this news is certainly difficult, it is not entirely unexpected given this growing pandemic and the rapid increase in cases from day to day across the state. To that end, I would like to share a few important reminders:

1. Protecting the privacy of affected individuals is paramount to creating a respectful school and work environment. If you are aware of his/her identity, please respect their privacy so they can remain completely focused on their health.
2. Please do not fret about being exposed. If you are identified as someone who has been in close contact with, or in close proximity to, any individual on our campus who has tested positive for the virus, you will be notified by EMCC administration.
3. Currently, Mississippi clinicians are only able to test individuals exhibiting systems of COVID-19 such as a fever of 100.4 or greater and a severe cough or chest pain. There is no need to be tested at this point unless you are experiencing these symptoms. Please note that current information from the CDC indicates that "most people have mild illness and are able to recover at home."

As always, we remain focused on the health and well-being of our campus and our broader community. Please visit our Coronavirus Information Center at <http://www.eastms.edu/coronavirus/index.html> for the latest news and updates.

Sincerely,

Scott

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