

From: [EMCC President](#)
To: [all_emcc](#); [all_students](#) Important Update from EMCC Regarding
Subject: Operations for This Week & Next Tuesday, March 17, 2020 12:30:19 PM
Date:

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students:

Much remains unknown about the current coronavirus outbreak. Hour by hour, we are receiving new information that impacts our contingency planning. We strongly encourage you to continuously check our webpage <http://www.eastms.edu/coronavirus/index.html> which is devoted to sharing updated information related to the COVID-19. Please also regularly check your email account and EMCC's social media accounts.

After reviewing information shared by the Mississippi State Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and higher education colleagues from across the state and nation, EMCC has made the following decisions in an effort to mitigate the spread of disease:

- **All campus activities and events at EMCC are canceled for the remainder of the semester.** This includes, but is not limited to: Athletics and Sporting Events, Campus Organizations and Student Life Activities, Continuing Education, and LION program events.
- **The NJCAA announced the cancelation of all spring competitions, including practices, regular season, postseason and national championship play.**
- **The NJCAA also announced updates for spring eligibility, recruiting and allowable Letters of Intent for spring sports.**
- **Decisions concerning student residence halls are still being considered.** The Dean of Students will be in touch shortly with more detailed information. We are aware that many residential students have expressed a desire to return to campus to obtain personal items. We are currently working through a process that will allow these students access to their belongings, while upholding the health and safety of our campus community.
- **Disbursement dates for Pell and other student loans will be April 17, 2020.** If you need to view your financial aid awards, please log into your LEO account by going to leo.eastms.edu.
- **The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid (MOSFA) will be releasing HELP grant funds to EMCC beginning the week of March 16 with MTAG and MESH to follow.** Due to the coronavirus the MOSFA staff will not have phone access but can be contacted via email at sfa@mississippi.edu.
- **We are currently reimagining what spring commencement might look like under the newest set of guidelines from the CDC.** In the meantime, the graduation meeting originally scheduled for the Scooba Campus for Wednesday, March 18 has been postponed. We will provide more information once it becomes available.

Clarification Regarding Campus Operations for March 16 – March 20

All campus locations will be closed to the general public. While East Mississippi Community College employees will be working, we are enacting a variety of exposure-reducing measures. First and foremost, **we are currently requesting that all non-essential employees stay at home unless your supervisor has specifically asked you to report to work. All employees who are able to work remotely, should plan to do so for the time being.** For those who have been called into the office to handle essential business operations, we will observe social distancing strategies and work

staggered shifts to ensure each office is appropriately covered, without too many people in confined spaces. If you have individual questions about whether or not you should report to work, please contact your immediate supervisor for additional information and guidance. **All students are encouraged to call before coming onto campus. All business transactions are encouraged to take place remotely.**

Move to Online Instruction ONLY Beginning March 23

Our faculty and staff are currently transitioning all face to face courses to online instruction. We are continuing to explore how to deliver career technical and allied health-related classes. We hope to be able to move to a small group instruction model for these hands-on courses; however, for the time being all face to face components will be suspended until at least March 30. Career technical and allied-health students will have limited online instruction until a solid plan is in place for how to deliver clinical and lab-based training.

Internet & Accessibility Resources

A number of students who are currently enrolled in online courses have inquired regarding the availability of campus resources this week. In keeping with CDC recommendations, we will not be providing open access to campus computer labs until after March 30. Instructors are encouraged to be particularly sensitive to the needs of students who might normally use resources on campus to complete their work. Please note that several service providers are offering internet services to qualified individuals during this difficult time. Students are encouraged to be forthcoming with their professors regarding challenges they expect to face during the transition to online instruction.

Thank you for your continued patience during this difficult time. We will continue you update you as new information becomes available.

Sincerely,

Scott

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