

**From:** EMCC President  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 5:01 PM  
**To:** all\_emcc; all\_students  
**Subject:** [All\_emcc] Important Update Regarding Campus Access for Residential Students & May Commencement

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students:

EMCC is following the latest information, trends and guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), as well as alerts and recommendations made by the Department of State, the Mississippi Department of Health and other state and federal health officials in order to take all necessary precautions to protect our students, faculty, and staff.

In addition to the updates we shared yesterday afternoon regarding our decision to move to fully online instruction beginning the week of March 23, we would like to provide you with additional information regarding residence hall access and graduation.

- **At this time, the residence halls will remain closed; however, we understand that many of our residential students may need to return to campus briefly to obtain personal items or books to complete their online studies.** In keeping with the latest recommendations from the CDC to limit gatherings of ten or more persons, we have created the [attached schedule](#) which assigns specific times for students to return to campus to get essential belongings based on individual rooms. If you are unable to adhere to this schedule, you will need to call the Housing Department at 662.476.5443 or 662.476.5062 to make individual arrangements. Please note if you show up on campus outside of your assigned time without making prior arrangements with the Housing Department, you will not be allowed on campus. Additionally, we are asking that all students returning to campus refrain from bringing people with them. Students will be permitted to bring one additional person for assistance. Upon arrival on campus, students will need to check in with the police officer at the main entrance to sign in.
- **Based on recommendations from leading health authorities, we have decided to postpone the May Commencement ceremony originally planned for this May at Humphrey’s Coliseum at Mississippi State University.** We understand that participating in Commencement is a very important tradition for our graduating students and their families,. We are working as quickly as possible to identify alternative arrangements for Commencement, but it is unlikely they will be held prior to the latter part of the summer, given the ongoing evolution of the COVID-19 outbreak.

As always, we strongly encourage you to continuously check our email account and EMCC’s social media accounts for the latest information regarding our COVID-19 contingency plans. We will continue to update you as more information comes available.

Sincerely,

Dr. Scott Alsobrooks

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