

March 13, 2020

Dear CSW Community:

I hope this message finds you doing well and feeling safe and supported in these unprecedented times. I'm writing with a general update regarding the operation of our college. This is a long message but seemed a better alternative to about ten short ones. Please let me know if you have any questions.

The View

Barring natural disasters, which are more regional, there has not been a social disruption this sustained in our country in our lifetimes. Despite the challenge, I invite all of you to view our tasks going forward as a far greater opportunity and responsibility than just getting the semester over with. We can continue to excel in our instruction, our availability to our students, and in promoting a message of stability, competence and commitment to high quality education. I appreciate the frustration that comes with this ambiguity. You might make friends with it, as it is going to be around for a while. While we have never been here before I am in awe of how skillfully so many of you are responding. For our short-term future, it is going to be both **business as usual** and **business as unusual**. Done the CSW way, our students will recall their time with us with great appreciation if not awe.

Teaching

Teaching will resume March 23rd. The university will remain in a distance education mode for the entire semester rather than the original two weeks. We are prepared for that. Our program offices are in regular contact with our students and are holding virtual information sessions to address student concerns. Students will resume field placement on March 16th. Students who are unable to resume placement for any reason will be engaged in approved virtual opportunities and then will likely be reassigned to help accommodate the tremendous community need. A letter with more details related to teaching and learning is forthcoming from Academic Affairs. Also, be sure to refer to our College webpage for other pertinent information <https://csw.osu.edu/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/> University resources are available here <https://keepsteaching.osu.edu> And as always our Ed-Tech staff are available here cswedtech@osu.edu

Research activities

Research activities should take into account the guidance provided by the University and Governor's office, including specific information that can be found here: <https://orrrp.osu.edu/2020/03/12/interim-ohio-state-guidance-and-faqs-on-human-subjects-related-research-visits-during-covid-19-outbreak/>. Specifically, virtual interactions for data collection and study activities are expected for non-essential research visits. These are described at the link provided above. IRB will expedite amendments to permit virtual interactions. To receive an expedited review, include only those changes needed for virtual data collection in order to get the prioritized processing. If needed, investigators can move immediately to virtual data collection; in that case, implement change and then submit an event report to describe changes, follow that up with an amendment. If you have questions about how this will affect your research program or you have general research-related questions, please feel free to contact the research office at CSW-Research@osu.edu.

Our community response

Not surprisingly we are receiving a number of inquiries from the community to provide support in responding to the massive disruption in our community (those of you who were here in 2005 will recall our contribution to rescheduling 1,200 Katrina refugees). We embrace our role as both social workers

and members of a land grant university and will be responding in a number of ways to these requests. Next week a small group of faculty and staff will hold an initial meeting to begin planning a coordinated response with the community. You will hear from that group later next week.

Student support

Our program offices are closely monitoring our students' needs. Please report any concerns you identify with your students directly to the appropriate program director. Counseling and consultation services will be open. Vicki Fetterman will be available to our students. <https://ccs.osu.edu/counseling-and-consultation-service-is-open/> Students are being instructed to move out of the dorms. The university will work with students who are not able to return home during this time period on an individual basis. Residence halls and some dining locations will remain open during this process. Our review to date has identified only one impacted student. I was touched that members of our community, and our donors have reached out to me to offer space in their homes.

Tele-commuting

The university is encouraging but not requiring us to work from home. Many of our program staff are electing to work from home. Your best option for contacting program offices is to email the individual you need. The Office of Human Resources has prepared a communication for us on requirements and suggestions for working from home. I will forward that message to all of you shortly. Each team that is working away from Stillman has a daily check in plan both for coordination of work, and to provide some social contact. There is nothing to prevent you from coming to campus, nor requiring you to do so.

Connectedness

One of the high points of many of my days is the opportunity to walk out to our fancy coffee machine and visit with many of you. And it's always good to hear you laughing. I want to encourage all of you working in the building and offsite to make sure you find time for that type of connection with each other. Social distancing does not mean social isolation.

IT

As we noted earlier in the week, make all IT requests to this email address: cswhelpdesk@osu.edu. That address is constantly monitored. An individual IT person's email may not be.

Events and Travel

With the exception of the Evening of Recognition, all CSW events are cancelled. We are awaiting guidance on commencement and will follow the university direction. All travel is cancelled through April 20th. Those policies are consistent with the email I sent earlier this week

Building cleaning

FOD will be deep cleaning each classroom. Following that cleaning all classrooms will be locked until the end of the semester. We have put in a work order to have all of our conference rooms cleaned. For the duration of the semester 315 will be the only conference room available. There is a bottle of cleaner and paper towels in that room. Please spray and clean the table surfaces you use at the beginning and conclusion of your meeting.

Your own health

Please make your health a priority. Practice good social distancing and hand washing. Keep an eye out for these symptoms <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/COVID19-symptoms.pdf> and avoid campus and let us know if you become ill.

And finally ...

Thank you. For your creativity and hard work, your compassion, and for the values we share.

Take care,

Tom Gregoire