

Dear UCC Campus Community,

In our continued commitment to keep you informed regarding UCC activity involving COVID-19, here are current College updates (as of Sunday, March 8).

This afternoon (Sunday, March 8), public health experts at the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and education officials with the Oregon Department of Education and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) issued [guidance and best practices](#) from public health experts to schools, colleges, and universities for decision-making concerning the novel coronavirus in Oregon. (Note: This is the statement we were expecting to share on Friday, March 6.)

At this time, **the guidance recommends against closing schools and campuses where no cases of COVID-19 are present.** It also recommends that schools, colleges and universities consider all alternatives before closing a school, college or university in the event that a COVID-19 case is detected among students or staff. The guidance identifies important strategies educational administrators can use to reduce the risk of COVID-19 within a school community and protect students from lost instructional time.

The guidance also recognizes that the instruction schools and universities provide is vital to student well-being. In addition, schools provide many students their only ready access to health care and food. More than 22,000 students in Oregon experienced some form of homelessness in 2019.

As a reminder, our protocol is to follow Oregon and local health authorities. As an agency, we will not act independently to establish processes and protocols that are not established by these external agencies.

Campus actions:

On Friday afternoon, March 6, an Academic Continuity Plan Task Force (ACTF) was enacted at UCC to discuss the type of plan needed for continuing the academic programs, courses, and related student services should there ever be a college closure of any kind. Members of the ACTF represent different stakeholders on campus: IT, Academic Services, UCCOnline, CWT, Community Education and Partnerships, Woolley Center, Student Services, Enrollment Management, and Department Chairs. Danielle Haskett is the ACTF chair. This Task Force is scheduled to meet tomorrow, Monday, March 9, at 8:30 a.m.

Additionally, a meeting will also be held tomorrow morning, Monday, March 9, to discuss an upcoming student trip to Indonesia. Information on the outcome of that meeting will be forthcoming.

Starting on Monday, March 9, custodial services are being increased on campus. A day-shift person will be brought in for additional disinfecting throughout the day.

NWAC Update:

We also have an update regarding the NWAC's decision to suspend the basketball tournament that was being held last week in Everett, WA, after an EvCC student tested positive for COVID-19. The Snohomish Health District contacted the NWAC to confirm that the EvCC student was last on the EvCC campus on Feb. 27 and did not have symptoms at that time. Therefore, the student posed little to no risk to EvCC students, faculty, staff, and tournament guests.

To recap, here is what UCC is currently doing:

- We will continue to actively participate in any phone conferences with our higher education peers and partners.
- UCC has an [Emergency Operation Plan](#). This document is housed on myUCC, the campus' intranet site.
- We will continue to provide any pertinent communication to students and employees.
- The custodial staff is taking extra steps to disinfect high-use areas.
- Additional hand sanitizers and wipes have been distributed throughout the campus.

What you can continue to do:

- Practice good hygiene. [Prevention measures](#) for COVID-19 are similar to those used to safeguard against the common cold and flu.
 - Avoid contact with people who are sick.
 - If you don't feel well, **stay home**. Contact your supervisor or instructor if you need to be absent from work or school.
 - Thoroughly wash your hands often with soap and water.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
 - Clean and disinfect shared surfaces and objects that are frequently touched.
- Make sure you are set up to receive campus alerts via AlertSense. This is a good time to make sure your contact information is up-to-date to receive emergency notifications.
- Avoid unnecessary contact with others; consider waving instead of shaking hands.

The Oregon Health Authority has basic information here: www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus; links to other resources that might be helpful are also included.

Please feel free to contact the Office of Human Resources if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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