

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update 3-11-20 from Dean Scott Thomas

Today messages were sent out to faculty, staff, and students from President Garimella, Provost Prelock, and Rafael Rodriguez (Executive Director of Residential Life) regarding the University's next steps with respect to COVID-19 planning. There are significant actions contained in those messages, including the University's shift to remote instructional delivery, and I encourage you to review them carefully. I would like to underscore our commitment to your health and safety.

The decision to move to remote instructional delivery is one made on the basis of evidence and considerable deliberation. Moving instruction off-campus significantly reduces the risk to our staff by having the majority of faculty and students work remotely. This will better ensure that our campus will continue to operate at capacity as we navigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are working to ensure that all university policies and guidelines are being followed within our community. We are aware of a number of logistical challenges related to remote course delivery, field placements, and student, faculty and staff wellness. We are working closely with the University's senior leadership team and others to ensure these challenges are identified and addressed as more information becomes available. As a reminder, in order to provide the most accurate and timely information, all official communication related to the University's response to the COVID-19 pandemic will come from the Office of the President.

You will find a catalog of all campus communication and COVID-19 related information at <http://go.uvm.edu/covid19>. At that website, you will also find a comprehensive FAQ for a variety of audiences.

I will be following up with relevant college-specific updates as developments warrant. Thank you for your continued commitment to maintaining a healthy community supportive of the well-being of everyone in our college.