

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY.

COVID-19 UPDATES

UK Administration

This message was sent from President Capilouto on March 17, 2020.

Members of our Campus Community,

The coronavirus (COVID-19) is an unprecedented public health challenge, one that changes shape and direction by the day, and sometimes by the hour. The trajectory of this virus will continue to climb for a period of time.

By acting aggressively and collectively, we will play an essential role in reducing the percentage of people who will contract the virus and need medical treatment. UK HealthCare is working with other providers to strengthen the state's capacity to serve and to heal in this troubled space.

We have a responsibility to do everything we can to stem the tide of this disease. It requires us to make significant changes to honor our most important principles: protecting the health, safety, and well-being of everyone in our community and enabling our students, faculty, and staff to succeed.

Based on the advice of health experts, guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and directives from Governor Andy Beshear, we are moving quickly and changing direction to be responsive to the needs of everyone in our community. But we also are moving thoughtfully, understanding that for a large and complex institution such as ours, every action has multiple reactions and ripple effects. This challenge is evolving; so is our response.

We will remain dedicated to the safety and health of our people. I have made that clear to all those who report to me, and they will make it clear to supervisors, managers, deans, department chairs, and all who work throughout our institution.

We know you will have questions about the adjustments we describe below. We are working as quickly as we can; I ask for your continued patience during this uncertain and anxious time. We promise to communicate with you clearly and transparently, every step of the way.

Students: instruction and learning, housing and dining refunds

- Instruction will move to online or other alternative learning formats, effective March 23 through the end of the Spring 2020 semester (previously, we had announced using such formats through April 3).
- We will be communicating soon with faculty, students, and their families about how we can support them as we transition to online instruction for the remainder of this semester.
- Students should make plans to return to their residences away from campus to continue their studies remotely through the end of the semester. We will communicate more details for moving out of residence halls by Thursday, March 19.
- We are requiring students to return to their homes unless they receive approval to remain on campus. The form for that process can be accessed here: https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5anzHcU9XYAHP1P.
- We also are developing a process for refunds for housing and dining. We will develop and implement that process and communicate the details soon.
- For 24/7 technical assistance, please contact ITS Customer Services at 859-218-HELP (4357) or visit the Technology Help Center at <http://techhelpcenter.uky.edu>. For assistance with non-urgent matters, email 218help@uky.edu.

Faculty and staff work options

- My expectation is that supervisors and department chairs will provide maximum flexibility to our employees who need to work remotely in the short-term and in the weeks to come so they can manage personal, family, and health needs in response to the spread of the virus and the closures of schools and businesses across the Commonwealth. We will be especially attentive to our employees who are at risk and our employees who care for family members at risk.
- Supervisors and department chairs need to determine who must remain on campus beginning Wednesday (March 18) and through the rest of this Spring Break week to ensure the function of critical operations such as: public safety, utilities, business operations, academic and IT support for online learning, vital research functions, and support for our students who remain on campus. Our expectation is that all other non-UK HealthCare employees will work from home for the rest of this week. For those who must remain on campus, we intend to build special support services and make our work environment even safer.
- For the next three days, buildings on campus will be closed to the public. We will be communicating hours of operation for those buildings that must remain open to support students or other vital services.
- We will communicate regularly throughout this week and beyond about how we manage the rest of the semester and the critical work we must do. We are developing a plan for the operation of the campus that is equally sensitive to the needs of our students and the health and well-being of our staff and faculty. For many, remote work will continue after this week. Others will be reporting to campus continuously or on an ad hoc basis to support basic operations.

We are committed to our employees. For all of us, this new environment will require a thoughtful approach to how we address inevitable questions and concerns around important issues such as pay and benefits. Out of the necessity of the moment, we will need to be innovative and supportive in finding ways for people to continue to work. We will do so with full understanding of how precious pay and benefits are to the emotional, psychological, social, and physical wellness of our people and those closest to them.

Events

- As both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Governor have advised, in-person events will be canceled or postponed until the end of the semester. Organizations may continue to meet remotely when possible.
- We are postponing Commencement to ensure the safety of our students and their families, as well as our staff and faculty who participate. There will be a Commencement to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our Spring 2020 graduating class; we will schedule it for a time when we are able to do so in a healthy and safe environment. We will communicate as soon as possible about next steps to ensure everyone involved can make travel plans.
- This **does not** change the semester completion date for our students, nor does it affect the timeline for students earning their degrees. We are only postponing the graduation ceremony and public celebration.

The University of Kentucky is a resilient community; we will work together with compassion, patience, and determination to lift us, and our Commonwealth, out of this anxious time.

Thank you for all you do to strengthen our role as the University of, for, and with Kentucky.

As always, please consult with our special website for the latest information about our response to this health challenge: <https://www.uky.edu/coronavirus/>.

Eli Capilouto
President



Office of the President 01 Main Building, Lexington, KY 40506-0032

coronavirus@uky.edu

www.uky.edu/coronavirus/