

March 9, 2020

Dear campus community,

I know many of you are concerned about coronavirus (COVID-19) and its possible impact on Western Oregon University, particularly with recent announcements of school closures around the country. I want to give you an update of what is happening at WOU and share with you some of the resources we're using to guide our preparation and response.

Consistent with guidance of public health authorities, WOU is operating normally until further notice, and we will provide additional information as conditions warrant. We have increased cleaning of common spaces such as classrooms, computer labs and residence halls.

On Friday, the Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Department of Education released a [recommendation](#) that Oregon K-12 schools and higher education institutions **remain open** if there have been no COVID-19 cases present. They suggested alternative measures (e.g., increased cleaning, social distancing) in situations where there are no COVID-19 cases. You may learn of differing guidance in other states as each state is recommending procedures appropriate to their own state, which may or may not match Oregon's.

Here are some resources we're following to guide our decision making:

- Oregon Health Authority's [guidance and best practices for school, college and university response to COVID-19](#)
- Higher Education Coordinating Commission's [COVID-19 resources](#)
- Centers for Disease Control's "[Interim guidance for administrators of U.S. institutions of higher education](#)"
- Oregon Department of Education's [COVID-19 resources](#)

We are monitoring this situation daily and have a response team in constant communication about appropriate actions. Your safety is a top priority to us, and we will continue to keep you informed.

If you have not yet seen our [COVID-19 webpage](#), please take a few moments to read through it and share it with your families. As we have additional information or changes, we will list it there.

Sincerely,



Rex Fuller  
President