



Date: March 12, 2020

To: Campus Community: Faculty, Staff, and Students

From: President Kumara Jayasuriya

Re: **Coronavirus (COVID-19)-Extension of Spring Break**

As you are all aware, the recent outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) is creating challenges and concerns for universities nationwide and around the world. The well-being of our faculty, staff, and students is of our utmost concern. As of noon today there are no known cases of COVID-19 on our campus or within our faculty, staff, and students.

Extension of Spring Break

The Minnesota State Chancellor, in consultation with his staff and the Minnesota Department of Health, has determined that the Minnesota State schools such as SMSU currently on spring break, will extend spring break for students through March 22, 2020. Classes will resume on March 23, 2020, in alternative delivery modes, such as online. Students, specific information regarding each of your classes will be forthcoming from your specific faculty members.

Employees and Facilities

The campus will remain open, including residence halls, dining facilities, and student support services and offices. Faculty and Staff should be prepared for work as usual. Student workers are allowed to work during this time also as assigned.

Instruction

Faculty are expected to return to campus March 16 to begin preparation for non-face to face modes of instructional delivery. Faculty should refer to the SMSU COVID-19 webpage for Continuity of Instruction guidance to prepare classes for conversion to online learning or alternative formats. They should consult with their Deans as necessary. Please watch for updates.

Travel and Events

Out-of-state business related travel is suspended as of March 16, 2020. Athletic travel is still under discussion. University related international travel continues to be suspended.

Any events of greater than 100 attendees, that were to be held on campus, will be cancelled through May 1, 2020.

Information

While we hope the campus is spared from COVID-19, the Pandemic COVID-19 Team continues to update and implement, as necessary, SMSU's Pandemic Plan. The COVID-19 SMSU webpage continues to be updated regularly with information as it changes and is released, see <https://www.smsu.edu/campuslife/healthservices/healthalerts/coronavirus.html>.

Resources and information that you may find helpful are listed below and links to additional resources are on our webpage:

- Students and employees:
 - Practice [respiratory \(coughing and sneezing\) etiquette](#) and [hand hygiene](#)
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick
 - Stay at home when sick
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

International Students

International students with questions should contact the International Student Services office at 507-537-6018, located in the Student Center room 237.

Despite the best efforts to prepare and protect, public health concerns such as COVID-19 present inherent uncertainty. We will continue to monitor the situation as conditions evolve. We will provide you with the most comprehensive information and guidance possible.

It is important that we act thoughtfully and responsibly during this difficult time. SMSU is committed to ensuring welcoming and supportive environment for all our students, faculty, and staff. I appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we navigate this situation.

Thank you.