



Date: March 16, 2020

To: Campus Community: Faculty, Staff, and Students

From: President Kumara Jayasuriya

Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19)-**Second** Extension of Spring Break-Classes resume March 30

The fluidity of information and changes to recommended procedures continues at a rapid pace in regards to COVID-19 best practices. The well-being of our students, faculty, staff, and campus community is of our utmost concern during the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19.

As we stated last week, spring break would be extended for students at SMSU. After consultation with his staff and others, the Minnesota State Chancellor has determined that spring break should now be extended for a third week at all Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. As one of the seven state universities, **SMSU classes will now resume March 30, 2020**, in alternative modes of delivery, such as online learning.

The two extra weeks of spring break, March 16 through March 29, will give SMSU faculty time to alter face-to-face classes to other modes of delivery. Although most classes will resume as online learning using the D2L platform, others may resume using Zoom or other alternative formats. Professors will communicate the format and information that students need to continue their classes to the students in their classes.

The campus will remain open, including residence halls, dining facilities, and student support services and offices. Students living in the residence halls may return to their rooms at any time.

Faculty are expected to return to campus March 16 to begin preparation for non-face to face modes of instructional delivery. Staff should be prepared for work as usual. Student workers and graduate assistants are allowed to work. Faculty and staff who have questions about working remotely should contact their supervisors and the Office of Human Resources. Accommodations will be made if possible. Strategies such as adjusting work hours may be explored also.

Please stay home if you are ill and call your healthcare provider if needed. Continue to practice good handwashing hygiene, use hand sanitizer, and practice social distancing.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is now recommending that no gathering be larger than 50 people. Adjustments to campus events will be made. All meetings spaces will be set up to accommodate social distancing and it will be assumed that technology will be needed for attendees to participate from off campus.

As conditions evolve, we will provide you with the most comprehensive information and guidance possible. Please refer to the SMSU COVID-19 webpage for the most current information at <https://www.smsu.edu/campuslife/healthservices/healthalerts/coronavirus.html> .

Thank you.