



Office of the President

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

March 11, 2020

Dear Lumberjack community,

In keeping with Governor Doug Ducey's declaration of a public health emergency for our state, Northern Arizona University continues to closely monitor the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and is addressing the outbreak in a proactive and comprehensive manner campus-wide, in coordination with federal, state, and local health and emergency preparedness organizations.

We are following protocols established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and we are actively collaborating across the NAU community to inform and protect our students, faculty, and staff. Coconino County Health and Human Services continues to test and monitor individuals, and at this time there are no confirmed cases at NAU, in Flagstaff, or in Coconino County. We are working closely with local agencies across Arizona to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and staff at our 20 statewide locations.

It is important that our faculty, staff, and students know that NAU remains fully operational. We expect our faculty to hold classes and our students to attend classes and complete coursework through the remainder of this week. We will communicate if there is a need to adjust operations.

As a result of recommendations from our COVID-19 task force, we have canceled several large campus events this week, as well as some student trips scheduled for spring break. Please do not cancel programs or events without conferring with academic or executive leadership. We are creating protocols and procedures that will allow us to review events that are scheduled after spring break in order to make appropriate decisions.

This is a highly fluid situation, and while there is no imminent threat to current operations, I would like to compliment our campus community for the extensive work taking place to ensure we provide essential services, including shifting course delivery to digital modalities after spring break, should the need arise.

Any necessary alterations to campus operations or courses and delivery will be communicated from the Office of the President.

For the safety of our Lumberjacks, NAU is providing guidance related to upcoming spring break travel. NAU supports the travel recommendations and restrictions from the CDC and the Arizona Department of Health and Safety. Travel to Level 3 countries (China, South Korea, Italy, and Iran) on university funds is not permitted. NAU strongly recommends against personal travel to areas with active community transmission of COVID-19 and/or in countries with current travel restrictions. More information can be found on the [U.S. Department of State's website](#).

We strongly urge you to reconsider non-essential personal or business travel in domestic and international locations experiencing community spread of COVID-19. Given our current low risk factors, consider staying in Flagstaff or on campus for the break. If you travel to areas experiencing community spread, you may face a higher risk of infection, significant delays returning to NAU, and/or the requirement to self-isolate, all of which could significantly impact your professional and personal obligations at great individual expense.

As we closely monitor the situation with COVID-19, please pay attention to your own health needs and take precautions not to spread illnesses. Whether or not you travel on your break, we strongly encourage you to be mindful of the recommended enhanced hygiene protocols from the CDC.

NAU will continue to follow recommendations from our public health and government partners. The safety of our Lumberjack community remains our highest priority. You can expect frequent updates, and we recommend that you continue to monitor nau.edu/coronavirus and university messages over spring break as changing conditions may require alterations to course delivery, campus schedules, and activities.

Sincerely,

Rita Hartung Cheng

President