

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

I am deeply grateful for everyone in our college community for the support you have shown in the midst of the rapidly evolving COVID-19 outbreak.

The current situation demands that we take immediate, difficult action to protect the health and safety of our communities. We do so with tremendous regret and understand that these actions will be disruptive and difficult.

- By the end of this week, Maine's community colleges will close all campus student housing for the remainder of the semester. Resident students with personal extenuating circumstances may request an exemption.
- After our extended break, we will move all courses that can be moved to online/distance education.
- We will double our efforts to develop alternative delivery models and options for those courses that are hands-on in nature.
- More information about specific courses will be provided in the coming days.
- All non-essential college travel is cancelled.
- Gatherings of over 50 are no longer allowed and should be restricted to no more than 10 people if they involve anyone over 60 or those at higher risk for infection.

Everyone on campus is working to make these transitions as manageable as possible. And we will need the continued cooperation, understanding and kindness of everyone in our college community to move through these challenging days.

We do not have perfect answers for any of the hard decisions in front of us, but we are all committed to doing our very best to ensure the health and safety of our college and our communities and to continue the teaching and learning underway this semester.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding.

Lisa Larson, Ed.D., President



*Eastern Maine Community College*