



Message from the President March 13, 2020

Dear Campus Community,

I would like to thank everyone for their patience and clear thinking as we address this challenging time brought on by the COVID-19 virus. As I highlighted in my letter on Tuesday, we continue to closely monitor developments in the ever-changing virus landscape and take action in consultation with campus faculty leadership, local, state, and national health officials.

First, I would like to reassure you that there are still no reported cases of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on the Cal Maritime campus. The Solano County Department of Public Health continually reassesses risk levels for our county with regard to COVID-19, which remains unchanged. This is in contrast to other areas of the State of California and the entire nation. As shared Tuesday, we act on local conditions to make local decisions for our campus. Of course, we are monitoring trends locally, regionally, statewide and nationally.

Second, following new guidance from California Governor Gavin Newsom, we are now taking additional steps to cancel or modify the size/venue of our largest gatherings to further reduce social contact. We expect that our largest classes will be the ones most conducive to transition to virtual formats – and our faculty is already making strides in this realm as we align with the governor’s guidance. To this end, we are encouraging faculty who are *already* prepared to move courses to alternative modes of instruction to do so beginning as early as Monday, March 16. Additionally, we are providing two days of training (March 26-27) for faculty who wish to capitalize on available tools that may allow them to quickly transition their courses to virtual formats. All classes for those days are being canceled to accommodate these preparatory activities.

Third, this development means that Cadet Spring Break will begin earlier, commencing on March 26 and concluding as planned on April 5. We encourage anyone planning to leave the campus to consult current travel guidance, which can be found on our [FAQ and information page](#). Be especially attentive to CDC-designated areas of risk. For those cadets who would find it safer to stay on campus, rather than travel to an area where there may be higher levels of exposure to COVID-19, we will keep housing and food service open. Expect more information in the week ahead.

Fourth, in this rapidly changing environment, we will continue to assess, re-assess and re-plan to the expected local conditions affecting our particular campus. When our actions do not mirror those of other campuses, it is because we live in different environments --- ours being more rural, generally isolated from the public, access-controlled and in a county assessed as low-risk

for COVID-19. During the Cadet Spring Break, a communication to all faculty, staff, and cadets with an assessment of the then-current situation will be sent no later than April 1 to outline planning for the scheduled return to campus. Additionally, we will share more information regarding final exams and Commencement activities. Faculty and staff will receive additional messages today with further information.

The guiding principles articulated in my message earlier this week remain front and center:

- First and foremost, the health and safety of the campus community will be our top priority.
- We will sustain our educational mission to ensure that all of our cadets can graduate on time.
- We will continue to assess and monitor the situation alongside public health and state and local officials.

I fully understand and appreciate the anxiety that many in our community are experiencing in this challenging environment. As rapid decisions are made nationally, statewide, regionally and locally, it can be unnerving --- if not disorienting. Despite this churn, I want to assure you that we remain committed and focused on health, safety, and our educational mission. Thank you for your exemplary leadership, extraordinary patience, outstanding cooperation and strong focus on the mission of Cal Maritime.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Cropper
President

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