



COVID-19 Update: Monday, March 16, 2020

1 message

UCA President's Office <presidentsoffice@uca.edu>

Mon, Mar 16, 2020 at 3:27 PM

Reply-To: noreply@uca.edu

To: FS <fs@uca.edu>

Dear UCA Faculty and Staff:

As all of you know, tomorrow we begin our online instruction, which is the main step in our social distancing efforts. Social distancing is key to preventing the spread of disease by limiting larger group gatherings and the number of people that individuals are exposed to throughout the day.

On Sunday, March 15, Governor Hutchinson announced the closure of all K-12 schools in the state from March 17 through March 29. We understand that this puts added pressure, during an already very challenging season, on our faculty and staff. In addition to child care concerns, many of you are also dealing with eldercare issues. Therefore, we seek to be as flexible as possible during the next two weeks.

Guidance for this week (March 16-21):

We are encouraging telecommuting arrangements this week where possible. If your family situation or personal health care concerns require you to be at home, you may telecommute with your supervisor's approval. If telecommuting is not an option, you may also use your accrued leave. Because we are operating in exceptional circumstances, supervisors have been instructed to remain as flexible as possible with all employees as we navigate this week.

Guidance for next week (March 22-28):

During spring break, we are asking all employees to telecommute, unless your supervisor tells you otherwise. We have been working with department heads to identify individuals whose physical presence is essential to core services versus those who can fulfill the responsibilities of their job remotely. Spring break offers us the opportunity to further support the state's social distancing goals through March 29. It also allows us to test our ability to continue business operations with limited on-campus staff serving over 1,000 students who will remain during spring break. It is important for us to test this capability because we do not know what challenges future weeks may bring.

As a final operational note, Housing and Residence Life, Aramark Food Service, the Student Health Clinic, and various academic and student support units are regularly communicating with students to ensure they have the services and support they need to thrive during these uncertain times. I want to thank these groups for their dedication and continued efforts.

Again, for your safety and the safety of others, please continue to take the preventive steps that are outlined on [our website](#) and on the [CDC's site](#) — wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds; cough and sneeze into your elbow; avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose; and stay home when you are sick. If you are concerned about any health symptoms you may be experiencing, please contact the [UCA Student Health Clinic](#) or your local health care provider immediately.

Sincerely,

Houston Davis