



March 10, 2020

Dear PHSU Community

Here at PHSU we have taken the necessary beginning steps to monitor outbreaks and cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19) if our community becomes affected. We have started planning mechanisms to ensure the continuity of the academic activities in the event of a campus closure as part of preventive measures to avoid further spreading of the virus.

This protocol will allow to continue courses and didactic activities using the existing academic platforms (Zoom, Canvas, Moodle, etc.). Specific details for each school and program will be provided by the corresponding Deans and training sessions will be held. Details will be provided in the upcoming days.

PHSU administration is also evaluating protocols for the approval of student activities including academic trips, student exchanges, rotations, internships and professional practices. Pertinent details will be shared during the next few days.

We have been monitoring the plans instituted by other universities nationwide to prevent the spread of the virus and will apply some restrictions to student activities (organized by PHSU or student organizations) and other activities that involve large groups.

Please be aware of the recommendations of the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

1. Avoid close contact with sick people.
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
3. Stay home if you are sick.
4. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and then throw it away.
5. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces, using a common household cleaning product in a spray or wipe.
6. Follow the recommendations of the CDC on the use of masks.
 - The CDC has not made recommendations for people who are not sick to wear masks to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
 - People with symptoms of COVID-19 should wear masks to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of masks is also essential for

health workers and people who care for someone in a closed environment (at home or in a health care facility).

7. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
 - If you do not have soap or water, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Always wash your hands with soap and water if they are visibly dirty.

In the event that any member of the university community has the symptoms of the virus, such as fever, cough, nasal congestion or difficulty breathing, you should stay home and seek medical attention when possible. If you are a student, when you are cleared by a physician, you must bring medical evidence and follow the current process for requesting and official excuse by the Academic Affairs Office. Employees of the institution should follow the corresponding Human Resources protocol.

We expect everyone's cooperation in this delicate situation and hope to move forward as we have always done.

Cordially,

Jose A. Torres Ruíz, PhD
Chancellor