

# Email to Students from President Parker

## COVID-19 Update

March 17, 2020

Dear Students,

We appreciate the trust you have placed in us as your educational provider. We know there is growing concern as the outbreak and impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) continues to evolve. Ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of our students is our top priority, especially at this critical time. As we continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19, we want to share with you the number of developments that occurred during the past week, some of which we have shared before:

- **Spring Break Extension:** Spring Break has now been extended for two weeks. There will be no classes at SCC from March 16 - 29. Classes will resume March 30 via alternative academic delivery methods. During this extended spring break, you will not be required to complete assignments or take exams. It is an extended break.
- **Here to Serve You:** While there will be no classes until March 30, our Associate Vice President of Student Affairs Judy Endres and the rest of the Student Affairs team is ready to serve you. You can contact them at [deanofstudentaffairs@southcentral.edu](mailto:deanofstudentaffairs@southcentral.edu) or 507-389-7200. It is important you **call us before coming to campus**, as we may be able to help you via phone, email, or some form of online communication.
- **Social Distancing:** You are encouraged to practice social distancing – deliberately increasing the physical space between others to avoid the spread of illness. Staying at least six feet away lessens your chances of catching COVID-19 and other illnesses. Again, if you feel you need to come to campus for whatever reason, **please call us first at 507-389-7200.**
- **K-12 Schools:** Governor Walz recently announced that all public schools in Minnesota would begin closing beginning on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday of this week, with the closure continuing through March 27. Check with your local school district for details on the closing of your children's school. If you are a concurrent enrollment student taking SCC classes at your high school, the closing of K-12 schools across the state will also impact when you can resume your SCC classes.
- **At-Risk Populations:** We want to be sensitive to those of you who are more at risk of having severe complications if you contract COVID-19. Please review the [Minnesota Department of Health Recommendations](#) for At-Risk individuals.
- **Returning After Travel:** Depending on your travel history, the CDC is asking you to take specific precautionary steps.

The CDC has issued a Level 3 Travel Warning (widespread, ongoing transmission) for China, Iran, South Korea, United Kingdom, Ireland, and many parts of Europe. If you have recently traveled to a [Level 3](#) area, you are asked to **self-quarantine for a period of 14 days after returning.**

The rest of the world, including the United States, has now been designated at Level 2 Alert status (practice enhanced precautions). If you have recently traveled within the United States or another [Level 2](#) area, you are asked to **monitor your health and practice social distancing for 14 days after returning.**

- **Future College Related Travel:** The Minnesota State system has suspended all school and business-related out-of-state and international travel students, faculty, and staff. The policy does not apply to

personal travel outside of the U.S., but only to trips organized or sanctioned by the 37 colleges and universities of Minnesota State.

- **Be Aware of Potential Scams.**

Scammers and cyber-criminals may try to take advantage of your concerns related to COVID-19. They may offer you fake products, medical advice, create fake charities, or compel you to click a fraudulent link to gain access to your device. Please visit the [Federal Trade Commission Website](#) to learn more about how you can avoid a scam.

- **Mental Health Considerations**

Mental health is an important part of your overall wellbeing. We know it's been a stressful few weeks. We're sure you're being bombarded with news related to the coronavirus. It may feel like a lot of noise and you may not know how serious to take this information and/or how to react. If you are feeling anxious or overwhelmed during this time, we encourage you to take advantage of mental health and other support services, including the [CDC-Managing Stress and Anxiety Resources](#).

- **Food and Community Resources**

Hunger and food insecurity are unfortunate realities during these unsettling times. Given these challenges, many students find that they do not have reliable access to sufficient food sources. For students concerned with food insecurity, South Central College's Campus Cupboard food pantry will reopen soon. More details will be included in a future email once the Campus Cupboard reopens. In addition, you can access Community Resources on the [Current Students Webpage](#).

As always, for the most up-to-date information or if you have questions about COVID-19, please visit our website at [www.southcentral.edu/COVID19](http://www.southcentral.edu/COVID19).

Know that we are in continual communication with the Minnesota State system of colleges and universities, and monitoring ongoing information provided local, state and federal agencies and healthcare organizations, to coordinate appropriate responses. As always, our team will be working to identify prudent precautions and continue to put our preparedness plans into action. We are strongly focused on the health and safety of our students and everyone in the communities we are honored to serve.

If you have any questions about this information, please email [deanofstudentaffairs@southcentral.edu](mailto:deanofstudentaffairs@southcentral.edu) or call 507-389-7200.

Appreciatively,

Dr. Annette Parker  
President, South Central College