

March 13, 2020

Good afternoon,

Let me begin by thanking the staff and faculty over the past two weeks for your help in navigating this unusual situation and assistance in maintaining calm on campus. I continue to stay in close touch with the other USM presidents and system leadership. The vice presidents have been doing the same with regard to their operations.

Our communications have been very clear that FSU is open and will continue to be open. We have a substantial number of students who consider this campus their home and want to stay with us, even during spring break. We also have students who would be unable to continue in an online format if campus services were not available. As we do during every spring break, we will have reduced hours for some student services next week. We will gear back up after that to meet the needs of those students who are on campus when we resume the spring semester with online classes.

In order to comply with the governor's request to reduce the population density on campus, based on our own Pandemic Response Plan and USM guidance, we decided to go to online coursework and telework for employees who can do so. Each of the vice presidents is working within his or her division to identify opportunities to reduce the number of individuals on campus each day while providing the necessary services we require.

The Office of Information Technology (OIT) has built a [webpage](https://www.frostburg.edu/information-technology/WorkRemote.php) to help guide you while teaching and working remotely. It contains links to resources, available tools, instructions for accessing voicemail and your office desktop, and more. OIT will continue to add information to the site:
<https://www.frostburg.edu/information-technology/WorkRemote.php>

Staff are expected to continue to follow their work schedule either on campus or through telework and should consult with their supervisors and/or vice president if they have questions. Faculty and staff will continue to have physical access to buildings and offices. We are asking that staff and faculty use their best judgment and follow the [recommendations](#) of health care experts regarding social distancing and personal hygiene.

Because I have learned that I cannot predict what will happen 24 hours from now, let alone farther into the future, we will continue frequent communications with the FSU community. I ask everyone to be safe and prudent during these times, and I hope everyone stays safe and healthy.

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