



Parents and Families —

I am reaching out to inform you about steps and actions being taken at the University of Idaho to help support your student over the next several weeks.

President Scott Green recently communicated to the university community (including your student) about our current situation and how we can support one another. That video and communication are available [on our website](#), as are many frequently asked questions, but I also want to reiterate some important pieces of information for you to discuss with your student.

Here are some answers to questions/things you may be wondering about:

1 — The University is going to online/remote learning for the remainder of the semester:

It is in our best interest to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus and ensure our ability to continue our educational mission for students. Therefore, the university will be offering all classes in an online/remote fashion. There will be no in-class meetings for the remainder of the

semester.

Faculty will communicate with your student about their courses and how they will be delivered. If your student has questions about their courses, please have them contact their faculty directly.

2 — The University is remaining open:

We are encouraging students to depart from campus and return home for the remainder of the semester. We also understand that for some students, this is not a viable option for a variety of reasons (technology, personal, etc.). For those students remaining on campus, and for those returning home, we will continue to provide support to the best of our ability.

3 — Housing and Residence Life and Greek Life Students:

University Housing and Residence Life remains open and Vandals Dining will continue to provide safe meal options for students. However, for any student wishing to move out of campus housing, they will have the option of canceling the remainder of their housing agreement and checking out, receiving a pro-rated credit to their student account. In addition, your student can check out remotely and leave their belongings in their room until you determine a better time to return to collect their things. For additional questions about your student's housing contract options, please email [**housing@uidaho.edu**](mailto:housing@uidaho.edu).

Students residing in a fraternity or sorority chapter facility should visit with their chapter leadership about their housing options. Should you have questions about a chapter situation, please reach out to the Greek Life staff at [**greek@uidaho.edu**](mailto:greek@uidaho.edu). They can assist you with contacting the appropriate chapter leadership for follow-up.

4 — Campus Events and Commencement:

The university is adhering to the 10-person maximum gathering recommendations made by the President of the United States, and thus all events larger than this have been canceled for the remainder of the semester.

Unfortunately, this also includes Spring 2020 Commencement. This was not a decision made lightly and is disappointing for many. However, we do encourage you and your graduating student to return to campus for our Fall 2020 or Spring 2021 Commencement ceremony.

5 — Campus Offices and Programs:

There have been some alterations to how students may engage in support and activities. Here is a brief list of things you should be aware of:

- **Food Services:** Students can still receive food services on campus in The Hub dining hall or in the food-court located in the Idaho Student Union Building. Food delivery is being modified, however, to provide meals to students in a safer manner and reinforce social distancing.
- **Campus Spaces:** When students return to campus, they will find that social gathering spaces (like lounges, food court areas, etc.) will look very different. Social locations, tables and seating have been closed, removed and/or cordoned off to help mitigate social gathering.
- **Campus Recreation:** Unfortunately, Campus Recreation and the swimming pool are closed until further notice. This includes all intramural and club sport activities, as well as all fitness classes provided in the recreation center. The dedicated staff is working on generating programs to engage students via remote programming, such as Yoga via remote video. Please encourage your student to look for ways to safely engage and stay active and healthy during this time.
- **The Library:** The Library is open for students but will have reduced hours and will encourage social distancing for studying. Additional information can be found **on their website**.
- **The Vandal Health Clinic:** The Vandal Health Clinic will be staffed with professionals to help redirect students to partner community locations prepared to meet their medical needs.

- **Counseling Services:** Your student can still access mental health support through Counseling Services, regardless of where they may be located. Counseling Services is transitioning to complete remote delivery and we will be maintaining appointments with students.
- **Academic Advising, Tutoring Services, Career Services, Academic Coaching and More:** These programs, as well as many other units on campus, are transitioning to phone and Zoom video conference interactions with students. This allows your student to continue to receive support, regardless of their location of study. Your student can schedule an appointment via VandalStar.
- **Computer Labs:** To assist with creating clean working and learning areas, only the computer labs located in the basement of the Bruce M. Pitman Center and the Library will be available for students.
- **File a CARE report:** You may be worried about how your student is doing if they do return to campus or even if they are struggling staying at home. If that is the case, let us know by filing a CARE report and a staff member will reach out and follow up on your report of concern.

6 — City of Moscow

The city of Moscow passed an ordinance closing all restaurants and bars until Friday, March 27. Curbside pick-up and delivery is permitted, where applicable. Students should call the restaurant of their choosing for additional information on any restrictions/limitations. In addition, many local non-food businesses have limited business hours and/or have also closed for the time being. Students should check websites/call ahead before visiting local businesses.

7 — What happens if someone on campus is diagnosed with the virus?

This question has been posed several times and it is understandable people want to know what will happen. Should a student, faculty or staff member contract COVID 19 the university will send out a general

staff member contract COVID-19, the university will send out a general Vandal Alert via email and will include any additional information necessary, making the Vandal community aware, as required by the Clery Act. In addition, the university will assess the information and take appropriate steps to protect the campus.

In closing, I want to assure you that we take our responsibility to provide a safe learning environment for your student seriously. We are all navigating uncharted waters together, but the strength and resiliency of the Vandal Family is unparalleled.

This current crisis is not something to be trivialized nor taken lightly, but working together, and doing our part to mitigate the spread, will help the University of Idaho and all its people continue on and remain successful.

Please don't hesitate to reach out and let us know how we can support your student. And as President Green has said....

Keep Calm and Vandal On!

Blaine Eckles, Ph.d.
Dean of Students

