



**TO:** University of Idaho Students  
**FROM:** Blaine Eckles, Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Dean of Students  
**DATE:** March 20, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Helping You Navigate A Changing University

---

Dear Vandals —

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

President Scott Green recently communicated to the university community about our current situation and how we can support one another. His communication and video is available [on our website](#), as are many frequently asked questions. I also want to reiterate some important pieces of information for you to help you make an informed decision.

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. As a result, the university will be teaching all classes in an online/remote fashion and ***there will be no in-class meetings*** for the remainder of the semester.

Faculty will communicate with you about your courses and how the instruction will be delivered. If you have questions about your class, please contact your faculty directly.

**2 — The University is remaining open:**

Students are encouraged to depart from campus and return home for the remainder of the semester. We do 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 you. However, if you wish to move out, you have the option of canceling the remainder of your housing agreement and checking out, receiving a pro-rated credit to your student account. In addition, you can check out remotely and leave your belongings in your room and return to collect your belongings later in the spring (but by May 16). For additional questions about your housing contract options, please email [housing@uidaho.edu](mailto:housing@uidaho.edu).

Students residing in a fraternity or sorority chapter facility should

visit with your chapter leadership about your 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 any graduating students 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 you may engage in support and activities on campus. Here is a brief list of things you should be aware of:

- **Food Services:** You 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 you in a safer manner.
- **Campus Spaces:** If you return to campus, you 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. This also includes all

intramural and club sport activities, as well as all fitness classes provided in the recreation center. The dedicated staff are working on generating programs, however, to engage students via remote programming, such as Yoga via remote video. Please look for ways to safely engage and stay active and healthy during this time.

- **The Library:** The Library is open, 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:** You can still access mental health support through Counseling Services, regardless of where you may be located. Counseling Services is transitioning to complete remote delivery and will be maintaining appointments with students. Please call 208-885-6716 to schedule an appointment.
- **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 you to continue to receive support, regardless of your location of study. You can schedule an appointment by calling the respective office or [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](#):** If you are worried about another student or member of the campus community (including yourself) let us know by filing a CARE report. 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. You should call the restaurant of your 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. You 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 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. As of this communication, no member of the university community has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

## **8 — How can I learn more about what is happening on campus?**

You can visit the [University of Idaho website](#) which has a lot of FAQs and useful information about what is happening. It also houses all university-wide communications. In addition, you can join me for a [COVID-19 Facebook Live Town Hall](#) event on Monday, March 23 at 2:30 p.m. Pacific where I will provide another update for students and field your questions. Please check out the [Dean of Students Facebook Page](#) for additional

information. I hope you will be able to join me in this conversation.

I want to assure you that we take our responsibility to provide a safe learning environment for you 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. Students, you must do your part to help **#flattenthecurve** by engaging in social distancing efforts, minimizing gatherings and encouraging others to do the same. By doing our part collectively to mitigate the spread, we will help the University of Idaho and all its people, continue on and remain successful.

Keep Calm and Vandal On!

*Blaine Eckles*

*Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Dean of Students*

[deanofstudents@uidaho.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@uidaho.edu)

[uidaho.edu/dean-of-students](http://uidaho.edu/dean-of-students)

---