

## **Southeast Missouri State University to Suspend In-Person Classes March 23-27**

As Southeast Missouri State University approaches the upcoming spring break (March 16-20), University leadership is continuing to monitor the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and exploring a variety of options concerning the continuity of coursework over the remainder of the spring semester.

At this time, there are no reported cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) on any of Southeast's campuses.

However, in an abundance of caution, and in consultation with local public health officials, Southeast Missouri State University will not conduct in-person classes the week of March 23 in an effort to limit the possibility of exposure to the coronavirus to the campus and Cape Girardeau communities. Online courses will continue to be delivered without any interruption or change. During this period, Southeast will remain open and faculty and staff operations will continue with business office hours of 8 a.m.-5 p.m. This includes all Southeast campuses. Residence halls on the main and River Campuses in Cape Girardeau will be open on a limited basis for students that have no other living accommodations. During this time there will be limited dining opportunities and residence halls services available. The University is continuing to evaluate all campus events, programs, and services on a case-by-case basis. The University strongly encourages students to take their books, computer, electronic devices and all academic-related materials with them when they leave for the break.

The University will be on spring break March 16-20, so the week of March 23 will give students, faculty and staff who traveled time to self-evaluate and assess their probability of exposure to the coronavirus. It will also afford University leadership and academic departments the opportunity to develop a plan to complete the semester through alternative instructional methods should the need arise. If students, faculty or staff plan to travel internationally over the next month, we are asking them to complete [this form](#). The information collected on this form will be used to help the University understand its travel footprint and communicate with the University community and local public health officials during the COVID-19 pandemic. Those traveling during spring break are encouraged to [practice healthy habits and good hygiene](#).

While in-person classes will not be conducted during the week of March 23, this should not be interpreted as an extension of spring break. Students are encouraged to continue their coursework if possible, and faculty members will be expected to contact their students via email, Moodle or other communication methods to provide details on their academic expectations.

While the residence halls remain open, students are encouraged not to return to campus. Those students who have extenuating circumstances that necessitate returning to their on-campus housing should contact the Residence Life Office through the housing [portal](#). If you already registered to stay in the residence halls over spring break, you will need to complete the form again for the week of March 23.

Southeast Missouri State University is following the guidelines in its emergency operations plan and a leadership task force is monitoring this situation on a daily basis. The University will be

sending regular communications to students, faculty and staff, and all updates will be available online at <https://semo.edu/sealerts/covid-19.html>. We will communicate with you again on or before Thursday, March 19, to provide another update on this topic.