

Email to Students in the Minnesota State system from Chancellor Malhorta

March 12, 2020

Dear Students,

Minnesota State is continuously reviewing a range of strategies to limit the spread of COVID-19 and its impact on our campuses and the communities in which we live and serve. I am committed to taking all steps necessary to protect the health and safety of our students, our faculty, and our staff.

All faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to heed the guidance of the [Minnesota Department of Health](#), and in particular, staying home when sick, covering your cough, and practicing good hand hygiene.

Today, I am announcing that the 32 Minnesota State colleges and universities that are currently on Spring Break will suspend classes March 16-22, with classes resuming March 23.

The five Minnesota State colleges that have Spring Break scheduled the week of March 16-20 will suspend classes March 23-29, with classes resuming March 30.

While there will be no classes during each campuses' extra week, administrators, faculty, and staff will spend that week exploring alternative modes of delivery and adjust campus learning spaces to ensure the safety of our communities. All campuses, including residence halls, dining facilities, and student support services will remain open and appropriately staffed, including student workers.

Minnesota State-Related Travel

Minnesota State suspended all school and business-related international travel effective February 28.

In addition, we are now suspending all out-of-state business travel for students, faculty, and staff, effective March 16. For in-state travel or other events, please carefully assess, along with supervisors, the conditions of destination communities to carefully consider the potential risks to yourself, participants, fellow students, families, and friends. Event hosts and coordinators should also be engaged in this assessment. If you choose to travel, ensure you have essential items you might need if you are not able to return immediately, such as medications, laptops, or other items needed to continue your studies.

Campus Cleanliness

The cleanliness of our campuses is a key element in keeping our faculty, staff, and students healthy. The facilities and maintenance teams at all the campuses are adhering to updated guidance from the CDC to ensure comfortable and safe campuses within which to learn.

Large Events

All events or other gatherings totaling more than 100 attendees are cancelled until May 1, and the situation will be re-evaluated.

Minnesota Department of Health

Should a case of COVID-19 occur on a campus, the Minnesota Department of Health will confirm the case and lead efforts to identify all those who were in contact with the ill person and give further instructions. If you are concerned that you have been exposed, please self-quarantine and contact your doctor, your campus's student services to alert them, as well as your faculty to ensure you are able to keep up with class assignments.

The diversity of our student body and employees is one of our greatest strengths. As such, we are committed to ensuring welcoming and supportive campus environments for all of our students, faculty, and staff. It is vitally important we work together, follow the practices recommended by public health officials, and proceed with preparedness, calm, and understanding.

I recognize that these are stressful times and want to reassure you that the faculty and staff at your college/university are available to assist you through this time.

For more information, continue to visit: <https://minnstate.edu/coronavirus/index.html> and your college/university website.

Sincerely,

Devinder Malhotra
Chancellor

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