

**Subject:** [Phar] College of Pharmacy implementation of a transition from face-to-face to distance education for Spring 2020  
**Date:** Friday, March 13, 2020 at 1:02:51 PM Central Daylight Time  
**From:** phar-bounces@ulm.edu on behalf of Glenn Anderson  
**To:** phar@ulm.edu, pharstudents@ulm.edu  
**CC:** Alma Sewell, Alberto Ruiz  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

Dear Pharmily,

Good morning. The State of Louisiana, the University of Louisiana System (ULS), and our own University of Louisiana Monroe are in a state of emergency. The coronavirus (COVID-19) has caused significant and growing public concern. Over 110,000 persons world-wide have tested positive for the virus, with an estimated mortality rate of 4%. Death attributed to COVID-19 have occurred primarily in the elderly and those with comorbidities such as heart disease and diabetes. US cases began to be seen in late February and were focused in high population areas. Over the past weekend, Louisiana has seen its first confirmed COVID-19 case and the number of cases has progressively increased over the past 72 hours. Currently 33 presumptive cases exist in our state.

Although our student body is generally not considered high risk for mortality from the virus, the potential does exist that large congregating groups (ie, classes and events) provide an opportunity for facilitated spread of the virus. Resulting increases in medical resource use and the potential for these resources to be overwhelmed is a concern. Many universities are moving to distance education as an alternative to traditional face-to-face coursework in response to growing concerns for the safety of student bodies and the surrounding residential communities. ULM and ULS are equally concerned and will enact the Academic Continuity Plan — transitioning all courses to distance education methods — on Monday, March 16, 2020.

The College's Academic Continuity Plan will:

1. Cease all face-to-face (F2F) didactic/laboratory course work (BS Tox, PhD, P1, P2, and P3) immediately;
2. **Cancel all non-experiential courses until 7:30 AM on Thursday March 19, 2020.** This decision is intended to provide faculty the time necessary to transition courses to distance methods. ;
3. University offices and laboratories will remain open and operational while the Academic Continuity Plan is in operation. All faculty and staff will attend normal work hours and activities on their home campuses;
4. Distance education (online) will replace F2F course-work and will be delivered either asynchronously (no live lectures) or synchronously (live lectures) as determined by the course coordinator;
5. Each course coordinator will contact enrolled students prior to Wednesday (3/18) to explain any changes to the course resulting from implementation of the Contingency Plan, identify expected course communication methods, and expectations of students for completing their course;
6. Cancel all COP-associated, planned student events until further notice (contact Mrs. Mary Rhea, Assistant Dean of Student Services and Advancement with questions, [mrhea@ulm.edu](mailto:mrhea@ulm.edu));
7. Cancel all COP-supported domestic (including in-state within Louisiana) and international travel;
8. For P4 PharmD students, allow students to continue to attend APPE/IPPE activities as scheduled. Students are expected to follow practice site rules regarding attendance and adoption of COVID-19 related safety protocols and procedures. Changes in student access to practice sites will be handled case-by-case. Please contact Dr. Smith ASAP as such changes become known to you; and
9. Provide you a weekly update (Mondays) from me regarding the ongoing COVID-19 situation and any

other information pertinent to our college and programs. Other communications from my office may occur as necessary to maintain information flow.

Please note that the College will remain open. Faculty and staff will continue to attend their home campuses — performing routine research, education (didactic, laboratory, and experiential) and service activities (maintaining current, expected levels of clinical services) — during the entirety of time that the Academic Contingency Plan is active.

I understand that our decision to cease F2F educational activities will be a burden to many of us; however, I am convinced these actions as outlined are in the best interest of our health and that of our communities. Both our administration and I are committed to having this semester be a success. Please work with us to make this happen.

God bless,

Dr. Anderson

PS: Please remember to:

1) wash your hands regularly, 2) cover your mouth with your arm when sneezing or coughing, 3) use greater than 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer whenever you return from ANY activity that involved locations where other people have been, 4) try to avoid large groups, 5) avoid contact with others when experiencing the symptoms of fever, dry cough, and post nasal drip.

PSS: Internet access:

If you do not have Internet access or access to a hot spot, please contact Marcia Wells (COP Manager of Technology Services, [mwells@ulm.edu](mailto:mwells@ulm.edu)) as soon as possible. We will facilitate arrangements for those without access to Internet at home.