

Statement to the St. Louis College of Pharmacy Community

DATE: Wednesday, March 16, 2020
TO: All Students, All Faculty, All Staff
FROM: John A. Pieper, Pharm.D., FCCP, FAPhA, President of the College
RE: Update on COVID-19 from President Pieper

Students, Faculty and Staff:

I thank you for your ongoing patience and flexibility as we continue to navigate the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

This morning, I convened the College's leadership team to review the most recent situation update. Due to the extraordinary circumstances facing us, I have asked the College's leadership team to implement the following actions:

Travel Restrictions

Effectively immediately, all College-sponsored international travel is suspended indefinitely.

At this time, we are not implementing restrictions on domestic travel, but we are closely monitoring updates. If new developments require us to make changes, I will share new information with you as it becomes available.

Event Restrictions

Over the weekend, the leaders of five St. Louis-area counties met and announced a ban on events and gatherings of more than 50 people to support social distancing. The event ban will remain in effect for eight weeks and includes the following areas:

- City of St. Louis
- St. Louis County and St. Charles County in Missouri
- St. Clair and Madison counties in Illinois

Additionally, the White House has just today issued an advisement that people not to gather in groups of more than 10.

These measures will have a significant impact on upcoming events at the College, including our Commencement celebration. The College is actively working to assess current guidelines and retool our plans. Our 2020 Commencement may look different than previous years. I will share more information as plans develop. The Office of Institutional Events will provide more information on upcoming events.

Remote Work and Learning

As I outlined in my March 12 message to the campus community, our campus and residence halls remain open. We are committed to continuing normal business operations to the extent that we can by shifting instruction and the delivery of campus services online.

To protect the health and safety of our community and to do our part to support social distancing efforts, I am working with the College's leadership team to move more business operations online.

Beginning **Wednesday, March 18**, faculty and staff who are eligible to work from home will be encouraged to do so. Campus units are developing work-from-home plans, and Human Resources will work with department heads and unit leaders to make decisions about remote work. Not all job duties can be completed remotely, and some personnel are required on campus to maintain operations, but the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff is a top priority, and we will streamline our on-campus workforce where possible. Human Resources will provide more information in the coming days.

We will also send more detailed information in the coming days regarding any changes in how to conduct business with departments at the College.

The decisions we are making are difficult ones, and I recognize that they will have an immediate and significant impact on our campus community. We are continuing to monitor the CDC, World Health Organization and U.S. Department of State for updates and recommendations.

Because of the dynamic nature of this situation, you should expect more changes. We are working diligently to provide you with regular updates and information as soon as it becomes available. I thank you for your patience and flexibility as we navigate this unprecedented experience together. As a member of our community, I ask that you continue to extend each other patience, empathy and understanding. There are many uncertainties ahead, and we face many unanswered questions. We will continue to use exercise our best thinking, communicate regularly and maintain as much continuity as possible.

For more information, monitor stlcp.edu/covid19.