

Statement to the St. Louis College of Pharmacy Community

DATE: Friday, March 20, 2020
TO: All Students, All Faculty, All Staff
FROM: John A. Pieper, Pharm.D., FCCP, FAPhA, President of the College
RE: Important Updates Regarding COVID-19

Students, Faculty and Staff:

We are continuing to monitor the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. As the rate of testing increases and the number of identified cases, both across the country and in the St. Louis area, grows, the College's leadership team is taking additional steps to protect the health and safety of our campus community.

I thank you for your patience and understanding during our transition to virtual learning and remote work for faculty and staff. I know these changes have had a significant impact on each of you, and you also are facing disruptions in your personal and family lives. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our community as we navigate these changes together.

After convening the College's leadership team to review the latest situation update, I have decided to implement the response measures outlined below.

Closure of Residence Halls

Based on new developments in the nation's pandemic response, I have made the difficult decision to close our residence halls for the remainder of the spring semester. This was not what we had hoped for, but the health and safety of our students is my utmost concern, and I believe this is the right choice at this time.

If you are a student in the residence halls who is unable to return to your permanent residence due to extraordinary circumstances or travel restrictions, know that we are committed to you. We will evaluate requests to remain on campus on a case-by-case basis, and we will ensure that our students do not face the housing or food insecurity we have witnessed in some areas of the country.

I understand that this decision will create many questions and concerns. Dr. Heather French, vice president for student affairs, will share an update with students living in our residence halls very shortly that will outline the move-out process to take place between Saturday, March 21, and Friday, March 27.

Access to Campus Buildings

As we prepare to close our residence halls, the Student Fitness Center will remain closed following Spring Break.

The library, Technical Support Center and general building access will be accessible via card access only. Modified hours for these areas are outlined at stlcop.edu/covid19.

Conducting Business Remotely

As we move more of the College's business operations to a virtual environment, there may be some changes in the way you access the services of offices and units at the College.

The websites outlining our response to the COVID-19 pandemic includes information on conducting business remotely with the College and accessing student services and programming.

Please monitor this website at stlcop.edu/covid19 for up-to-date information.

Ongoing Travel Restrictions

As I shared in my March 16 update to the campus community, all College-sponsored international travel is suspended indefinitely and will remain so.

Yesterday, the U.S. Department of State issued a Global Level 4 Health Advisory – Do Not Travel that advises U.S. citizens to avoid all international travel due to the global impact of COVID-19.

At this time, we continue to not implement restrictions on domestic travel, but we are closely monitoring updates.

Again, I thank you for your patience, perseverance, and ongoing leadership in your personal and professional communities. I ask you to continue to extend understanding and empathy to all members of our community.

I will share updates with you as information becomes available. If you have questions about our response, contact Carlin Harp, emergency management coordinator, at carlin.harp@stlcop.edu or 314.446.8133.