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Dear Colleagues:

With the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 rising in Oregon and throughout the country, we continue to stay connected with national, statewide and local organizations monitoring the situation. As mentioned last week, our Institutional Continuity Plan is in operation, and I have now asked the coordinating team to meet twice weekly to assure we are doing everything we can to keep the College community informed and the campuses safe.

As of this point, there are no positive cases in Central Oregon. If a case is confirmed in the area, we will follow the guidance of our Central Oregon public health professionals, and those at the Oregon Health Authority. You may have seen over the weekend that OHA is recommending schools and colleges consider all alternatives before closing, even in the event that a COVID-19 case is detected among staff or students.

In the meantime, please be sure you stay up-to-date with information, either by reading what is posted on our [web page](#), or tracking what is available through the Central Oregon Emergency Information Network and the OHA. On our page, we do have the latest from both of those groups, plus updates from the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and the Centers for Disease Control.

Later today, Laura Boehme will be putting out more detailed instructions geared toward employees. It remains vital that you follow the advice outlined in the March 6 posting to Headlines:

- **Stay home if you are sick;** avoid close contact with others
- Wash hands often with soap and water; if not available, use hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Cover your mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing

Thank you.

Take good care of yourselves!

Laurie

Laurie Chesley, Ph.D.  
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