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Update March 11, 2020

Dear COCC Students:

Today Deschutes County Health Services announced the first case of COVID-19 in Central Oregon. You can read more information on their [website](#).

Please know that the College's COVID-19 Task Force continues to closely monitor events, prepare for contingencies, and follow the guidance of the [Oregon Health Authority](#), the state Higher Education Coordinating Commission, and local public health officials.

I know that we all may be feeling some level of apprehension at this time. Remember that there are many resources available to keep you and your families safe and healthy. Since I arrived here as COCC's president in June 2019, I have seen firsthand how kind and caring our COCC community is. Let's all make extra efforts to be supportive and considerate of our colleagues and students as we move through this challenging time.

At this time, there is no known nexus to the College, and we will remain open, per Oregon Health Authority recommendations. We plan to continue to follow OHA guidance regarding any potential future closures.

We have made the following changes to our operations to date:

Increasing the frequency of cleaning in high traffic areas.

Asking all students, faculty and staff, and visitors to wash hands when entering and exiting buildings.

- Hand washing [instructions](#)
- Hand washing [videos](#)
- Educating employees and students to not to come to the college if they have flu-like symptoms.

We are also:

- Initiating trainings specific for moving instruction to online or other alternate methods, as appropriate.
- Reviewing all college travel.

Again, if you have symptoms, please stay home, communicate with your faculty member regarding absences and consult with healthcare providers for future guidance. Please also communicate with the appropriate staff of other areas of campus in which you might be involved or your supervisor if you are employed on campus.

I encourage you to keep abreast of accurate, timely information about COVID-19, just as the College's COVID-19 Task Force is doing. The following sites are good sources of reliable information: the [Oregon Health Authority](#), the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [Central Oregon Emergency Information Network](#).

As always, we will continue to keep you informed as this situation develops. You will find all of our communication on COVID-19 on our website.

Best wishes as you finish this term.

Kind regards,
Dr. Laurie Chesley
COCC President