

Dear Faculty and Staff,

We have all seen a lot of information both internally and externally over the past few weeks regarding the coronavirus, or COVID-19. Clearly, this is a serious situation, and we are monitoring the status of the virus propagation and impact through many sources. The safety and well-being of students, faculty and staff are of critical concern to each of us. We are working closely with the Los Angeles Department of Public Health (LADPH), and we receive regular updates from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Presently, we do not have any known cases of COVID-19 at Marymount California University, and we plan to remain open for normal activities at both the Oceanview Campus and The Villas. However, like similar situations in the past, vigilance is key to the prevention of disease propagation. Always pay attention to those around you and be aware of anyone who is acting sick or in distress. If they need help, keep them still and call the Student Wellness Center, but do not take the person to the Student Wellness Center. If the situation is dire, call 9-1-1 and explain what you are witnessing and specifically where you are located.

We are aware that under these circumstances, stress is elevated, and any cold or flu brings on new levels of concern for the individual affected.

MCU is taking the following precautions to safeguard the well-being of our entire community:

- We are cleaning more frequently in highly utilized areas and disinfecting door handles, bathrooms, common surfaces and confined spaces.
- MCU is sending weekly (or more frequently as appropriate) information to our faculty, staff and students via email on how to reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19 and other important announcements.
- The Safety Committee on campus meets regularly to discuss policies and procedures regarding potential outbreaks.
- I receive daily information from numerous sources, including peer institutions, and continue to monitor the situation closely.

Frequently Asked Questions

What information has been sent out to students/faculty/staff?

MCU has communicated the following recommendations from LADPH:

- 1) Self-Isolate: Stay home when sick (don't wait until you are too sick to get out of bed). Trying to "tough-it-out" and come to school when you are not well is not a good plan.
- 2) Wash hands FREQUENTLY with soap and water (20 seconds).
- 3) Cover your cough (if you use a tissue, throw the tissue away and then wash your hands). Try to avoid coughing or sneezing into the air. Simply covering up is a huge benefit to all (you can use your elbow/sleeve).

4) In general, health care organizations are not recommending wearing masks or filters unless you are providing care to an ill person. There has been a shortage of masks and hand sanitizer locally. Soap and water work well, but discard paper towels in the trash for disposal.

5) Faculty should not pressure students to attend class if they are not well. Yes, there will be some opportunity to manipulate the system, but we want to err on the safe side.

6) Get vaccinated for the flu (when you are healthy).

7) Know your healthcare provider and how to reach them directly on short notice.

8) If you feel you need to go to the doctor, urgent care or hospital emergency room, MCU advises that you call ahead for any specific instructions and to let them know you are coming and the symptoms you are experiencing.

More up-to-date information is available at the Los Angeles Department of Public Health website at <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus>, and we ask that you check this site regularly.

What other resources are available for students?

24Hr/Nurseline (free for all students) – Call 877-856-8163

Student Health Insurance Plan - Visit SHIP website or call 877-246-6997

Student Wellness Center - (310) 303-7244 or After Hours (310) 303-7372. Please do not send sick students to the SWC. Have them call instead and avoid contact with others.

What if we need to quarantine any part of our facilities?

We have no current need for quarantine of any of our facilities. We are working on alternative plans for providing courses for our students remotely, so there will be little or no educational disruption should we need to provide isolation. Maury Hillstrom is our point-person for classroom educational technology. We have no need to isolate or quarantine any part of The Villas residences. In many ways, our Villa townhouses are uniquely manageable unlike conventional residence halls. We have procedures for isolating individual units or buildings at The Villas, but we have no expectation to do so. Chad Fehr is our point-person at The Villas, and Monte Schmeiser is in regular contact with our maintenance and janitorial services at SSC. You can contact me anytime for concerns you may have. We will let you know should there be any change in this status.

What if I plan to travel? How will I know if it's safe?

Right now, there are no restrictions on travel within the United States; however, we generally recommend to avoid non-essential travel at this time. For questions about travel, visit the Centers for Disease Control website at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>. We recommend limiting travel—particularly air or train travel over Spring Break. International travel is only recommended in cases of very high need, and the CDC should be referenced for international travel restrictions. This situation is subject to change on short notice according to health authorities.

What about large public gatherings and conferences?

Unless attendance is critical, we recommend avoiding such situations. We are aware that some industry and educational conferences have been cancelled or rescheduled. Be cautious as a rule and check with organizers to confirm the status of such meetings.

We have no reason to panic, but we want everyone to be mindful of the situation with the coronavirus. This is a serious situation, and we will stay vigilant and react when and if warranted. Los Angeles and the United States are at the forefront of prevention. You can help by being diligent, cautious and aware.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Marcotte", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Brian Marcotte
President, Marymount California University