Dear Elon parents and families:

Please see below for a message that was sent to students, faculty, and staff earlier today. Thank you for all you are doing to keep our community safe.

Sincerely,
Jozi Snowberger ’07
Senior Director of Parent Engagement

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

Much has happened since last Monday’s update on the impact of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19 on our Elon community. Today’s update summarizes the current status at Elon, points you to resources and sources of information, and describes the communication you can expect moving forward.

Current Status

• The situation summary from the CDC can be found online here and is updated regularly.
• We are not aware of any coronavirus case associated with members of the Elon community.
• There have been 33 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state of North Carolina – none in Alamance County.
• The governor has declared a state of emergency for the state, freeing up resources and enabling important strategies to address the situation. Schools across the state will be closed for the next two weeks and no gatherings of more than 100 people are permitted.

Elon is maintaining campus operations so that students who were not able to leave, or for whom leaving created greater health risk, can remain on campus. We are also accommodating several international students. The lower number of students on campus will reduce the health threat. We are asking students who traveled home for spring break to remain there until in-person classes resume on campus, which is currently planned for April 6. Students who intend to return to residence halls before April 6 are asked to sign up by tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17, following the instructions online here.

Additional Information

• Elon offices are open this week while undergraduate students are on spring break, but will be closed Friday for a previously scheduled holiday. Information about spring break campus services can be found here.
• On March 23 following Spring Break, undergraduate courses will transition from classroom instruction to online learning mode for two weeks. Faculty and academic support staff continue their preparations to shift undergraduate courses online.
• The School of Health Sciences will shift classes online starting March 16. The School of Law will be conducting exams online this week and has suspended in-person classroom instruction for the two weeks after their spring break. Other graduate programs are receiving information directly from their respective deans.
• All winter and spring athletics competitions have been canceled.
• All non-essential university travel has been suspended until further notice.
• The university is adopting social distancing measures, asking community members to reduce the spread of the virus by avoiding large gatherings and altering their personal interactions with others.
• Human Resources has instituted a temporary remote working policy for staff effective through April 5. Vice presidents and supervisors have the authority to consider departmental needs and approve remote working arrangements in some circumstances. The university will also implement a special temporary pandemic leave to ensure employees will not incur loss of compensation.
• Staff from Physical Plant and Elon Dining are working over the break to clean the campus and make operational shifts to keep the community healthy and safe.
• Student Health Services and our Faculty/Staff Wellness Clinic continue to shift classes online starting March 16. The School of Law will be conducting exams online this week and has suspended in-person classroom instruction for the two weeks after their spring break. Other graduate programs are receiving information directly from their respective deans.
• Student Health Services and our Faculty/Staff Wellness Clinic will continue to coordinate with local and state public health departments to plan for responses to suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state of North Carolina.
• There have been 33 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state of North Carolina – none in Alamance County.
• The situation summary from the CDC can be found online here and is updated regularly.

Communication Plans

Critical information has been distributed in multiple ways over the past week, and we will continue this enhanced communication strategy to keep you updated and informed in the days and weeks ahead:
• Regular community-wide updates from President Book or me, in the form of a regular Monday afternoon email update and additional community-wide messages as needed
• Targeted messages to specific populations (students, faculty and staff, alumni, schools, families, etc.) from vice presidents and deans, as needed
• Regular, continual updates and information on the special university coronavirus website as well as official university social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube).

If you have not visited the university coronavirus website recently, you will notice that the site has been redesigned. Community messages are archived, short informative videos have been posted, and you can use buttons on the website to access specific information for students, faculty, employees, admissions,
This is a very challenging time for our campus and our nation. Our continued vigilance is required, with careful attention to the recommendations of public health officials. Know that we will continue to make decisions at the university that prioritize the health and safety of our community. We are working to develop plans for multiple possible scenarios, and should we need to shift our university course of action, we will communicate with you as quickly as possible. Thank you for your continued patience as we work to make decisions in a very dynamic situation.

Our next email update to the community is planned for next Monday afternoon, March 23, at 2:00 p.m., unless an earlier message is warranted. Current information is always available on the special university website: https://www.elon.edu/coronavirus.

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Dr. Jon Dooley
Vice President for Student Life