



Larry Hogan  
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford  
Lt. Governor

Ian D. MacFarlane  
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.  
Secretary

March 11, 2020

Dear Executive Director:

As you may be aware, on March 5, 2020, Governor Larry Hogan declared a state of emergency pertaining to the Coronavirus/COVID-19 to ramp up Maryland's coordinated response across all levels of government<sup>1</sup>. Many of our Maryland higher education campuses are actively moving academic learning to an online format for the near future. We recently notified institutions that no approval is required from the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) at this time to move lectures, discussions, assessments, and other academic coursework to an online format.

Regarding programs that lead to licensure, the US Department of Education has left the decision to accept clock-hours in a distance education format up to the applicable licensure body<sup>2</sup>. **To best support students through this transition, we are asking that you provide guidance regarding your licensing board's acceptance or denial of a change in modality (e.g., face-to-face or distance education) for clock-hours that are required for licensure or certification.** Please provide this guidance (or a timeline for the guidance) by close of business Friday, March 13, 2020.

Please include MHEC, by way of email to Dr. Emily A. A. Dow, Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs, [emily.dow@maryland.gov](mailto:emily.dow@maryland.gov), and Trish Gordon McCown, Director for Academic Affairs, [trish.mccown@maryland.gov](mailto:trish.mccown@maryland.gov), on any communication to institutions regarding this matter.

We appreciate your efforts. Please contact Dr. Dow or Ms. Gordon McCown with questions.

Thank you,

Dr. James D. Fielder  
Secretary

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<sup>1</sup> Governor Larry Hogan Declares State of Emergency, Expands Statewide Response to Novel Coronavirus, <https://governor.maryland.gov/2020/03/05/governor-larry-hogan-declares-state-of-emergency-expands-statewide-response-to-novel-coronavirus/>

<sup>2</sup> US Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education: Guidance for interruptions of study related to Coronavirus (COVID-19), March 5, 2020 <https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/030520Guidance4interruptionsrelated2CoronavirusCOVID19>