



Larry Hogan  
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford  
Lt. Governor

Ian D. MacFarlane  
Chair

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

March 13, 2020

Dear Student:

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. Your college, university, or private career school is expected to make decisions regarding campus operations that are in the best interest of the students, faculty, staff, and the community that they serve.

Social distancing is one of the recommended strategies from the CDC to prevent the spread of Coronavirus/COVID-19. We are aware that institutions are actively requiring faculty to move academic coursework to a distance education modality as a method to promote social distancing. We are also aware that many campuses are taking advantage of the spring break timeframe to allow for this transition.

We understand that this may be an overwhelming task for some students. Learning remotely requires a different set of skills compared to learning in a physical classroom. Students may be expected to make adjustments to their schedules, evoke new self-regulatory skills, and identify strategies for clear communication with instructors. It will be important to take advantage of all resources institutions are offering to students to best engage with the curriculum as it moves to an online format. We know that not all students have regular access to a computer or the internet at their non-campus residence. During this time frame, students may need to identify and seek out new or alternative resources so that they can continue to be successful (e.g., finding a quiet study space).

We have a devoted webpage regarding COVID-19 and higher education in Maryland<sup>1</sup>. We will update the MHEC COVID-19 webpage regularly. If you have questions or concerns that cannot be addressed by your campus, you can email us at [COVID19.mhec@maryland.gov](mailto:COVID19.mhec@maryland.gov).

We know that this is a fluid and rapidly changing state of events. To be most successful during this time, students should keep regular contact with their instructors and read all communications from their institution regarding campus-wide updates. We are committed to providing support to all institutions so that you can obtain your educational goals.

Thank you,

Dr. James D. Fielder  
Secretary

<sup>1</sup> [https://mhec.maryland.gov/Pages/Information-for-Postsecondary-Institutions-on-Coronavirus-\(COVID-19\).aspx](https://mhec.maryland.gov/Pages/Information-for-Postsecondary-Institutions-on-Coronavirus-(COVID-19).aspx)