



March 31, 2020

Contact: President Dr. Seth Carter
seth.carter@colbycc.edu
(785) 460-5400

Greetings from Colby Community College. We hope everyone is staying safe and doing well. The month of March 2020 was one of the strangest months of my life, and I imagine that is the case for most people. This situation has evolved at such a dynamic pace and required unprecedented action.

On March 13, Colby Community College (CCC) extended spring break by an additional week, running through March 27. This provided an opportunity to shift classes to an online modality and receive more information on a fluid situation. Please note, CCC had been communicating with students regarding the COVID-19 virus since the end of January.

Then on March 18, CCC had to transition all courses online to ensure students could complete them. We also notified students that they would not be returning to the dorms. Students were provided a sign-up time so that no more than two people would be present in the building to collect their possessions. The items were to be picked up the week of April 6, but unfortunately, Governor Kelly's executive stay-at-home order altered the plan. In an effort to remain compliant with the governor's order, CCC had to extend pickup indefinitely until the order is lifted on April 19.

One of the most frequent questions we receive is how some classes transition to an online modality (i.e., nursing, physical therapist assistant, etc.). It is an excellent question and one that required the College to contact each respective accrediting body to seek permission to shift online. Transitioning all classes to an online format is difficult, depending on the type of course. I am extremely grateful to our faculty for their dedication and effort to do this as smoothly as possible to help ensure student success.

In order to help protect public safety, CCC has taken a number of steps. One of the first decisions was to restrict students from returning to campus. Several weeks ago, the College also began transitioning employees to working remotely. Again, this was done to limit potential exposure. More recently, CCC has limited essential personnel on campus since the governor announced the executive order.

To date, Colby Community College has provided over 30,000 masks and gloves (personal protection equipment) to local area providers to help ensure public safety. CCC was able to do this because of the number of health and human services programs that require these types of materials.



On behalf of the College, we hope everyone is staying safe. These are unprecedented times, and we hope everyone is adjusting as well as possible. COVID-19 has undoubtedly altered everyone's life; however, I believe it is still imperative that we stay positive. This situation has been difficult, but I think we all have the opportunity to decide if this is a speed bump or a sinkhole in the road of life. Please be safe and take care.

Respectfully,

Seth Macon Carter