



## TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** TSU Community (Students, Faculty & Staff)  
**FROM:** Kenneth Huewitt, Interim President  
**DATE:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Coronavirus/COVID-19 Update

#### **TSU Community:**

The situation faced by our nation is unprecedented with the rising spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. To best support our students and to protect the health of our campus environment, the University must be proactive and implement measures consistent with the directives and guidance from federal, state and local government and public health officials. Although there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 on campus, this fact does not preclude us from taking action now.

Texas Southern University is announcing the following decisions:

- In an effort to minimize contact that could spread the COVID-19 virus on our campus, we are extending online instruction for the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester. No decision has been made yet regarding the summer semesters.
- We are mandating that all residential students now away for Spring Break not return to campus. Given the State's executive order pertaining to gathering places, recreation centers, eateries, entertainment, etc., it has become evident that this is the best action to take to enhance the safety of our students. Students should check their student email for detailed instructions from Residence Life & Housing regarding how to go about the collection of your belongings from your room.
- Students who are now staying on campus should begin making arrangements with their families/guardians to move out of the residence halls by no later than Saturday, March 28, and return home for the remainder of the semester. Students who are facing special circumstances can put in a request to Residence Life & Housing to have their situations evaluated. These requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
- We are cancelling the Spring 2020 Commencement ceremony. All Spring graduates will be allowed to walk at a future Commencement ceremony, and we will provide additional details at a later date.
- All handling of refunds will be addressed in a future communication.

Essential university services will continue, as TSU is NOT closing. We will continue to offer services and support for our students and university community - all while adhering to proper guidelines and protocols. The TSU Library Learning Center (LLC) will be open for those who may need computer and WiFi access. The LLC will follow 'social distancing' guidelines with regard to computer stations, study areas and other spaces.

## Important Online Instruction Information

Regarding the transition to online instruction, here are some important pieces of information:

- Between now and March 23, it is vital that you make sure you can log on to the Blackboard platform. Your MyTSU sign on is the same for Blackboard (Username: Student Email Address; Password: Your Email Password)
- You should view the following two YouTube links that provide information for the transition to online courses via Blackboard:

TSU Blackboard Student Orientation (specific to TSU students)

[https://youtu.be/iy\\_Xkq1VCHI](https://youtu.be/iy_Xkq1VCHI)

Blackboard YouTube Channel for students

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLontYaReEU1seUE3ACG3sEc3zR7Br7URU>

Please know that these are not easy decisions to make, but we feel they give us the best opportunity to complete the semester, allowing our students to earn the academic credits they deserve, while keeping campus safety as our top priority. With your help, patience and understanding, we will get through this together.

Finally, as you know, this is a fluid situation. We pledge to keep you informed as new information becomes available and new decisions need to be made.

As always...GO TIGERS!