

Members of the University Community,

As you may be aware, the Government of Saskatchewan has declared a provincial State of Emergency in regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, clearing the way for broad government powers to restrict travel, limit public activities and deploy resources. The University of Regina is evaluating what this might mean for our operations and will provide an appropriate response tomorrow.

In the meantime we continue to prepare for our transition to remote teaching and learning platforms on Friday, I would once again like to thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding as we work through these challenging times. We are doing our best to adapt to a rapidly-changing situation while keeping everyone's health and safety and our students' academic progress as our top priorities.

Here is a brief progress report for today:

#### **DISTANCE LEARNING**

Most of our focus continues to be on preparing for the transition to remote learning on Friday. Instructors have been populating their course schedules, platforms and plans on the teaching portal. The student portal will go live tomorrow (Thursday) and will be accessible here: <https://www.uregina.ca/covid-19/>. Student questions and concerns should first be directed to your instructor or faculty.

For faculty, it is important to remember that if you are teaching live (e.g. Zoom) to students who are at a distance and in different time zones, recording your lecture through whatever technology is available to you would be invaluable to students, especially international students.

Faculty are also reminded to address student accommodations within their distance delivery modalities. Should there be any questions or concerns please contact the Centre for Student Accessibility here:

<https://www.uregina.ca/student/accessibility/contact/index.html>.

#### **SERVICE CHANGES**

Despite many staff and faculty members now working remotely, the University continues to operate, albeit with reduced hours and services in some areas:

- At this time, the **Dr. John Archer Library and Archives** will transition on Monday, March 23 to online services only with no in-person services available. Self-check and computer terminals will still be available. Updated hours will be 8 am to 8 pm Mon. to Fri. and 8 am to 4 pm on weekends. Please be sure to check here for updates should further changes take place: [uregina.libguides.com/covid-19](http://uregina.libguides.com/covid-19)
- Beginning March 23, **College Avenue Campus** building hours will be 7 am to 2 pm Monday to Friday and closed on the weekends.
- The latest information on **food services** hours and offerings are located here: [uregina.ca/covid-19/closures.html](http://uregina.ca/covid-19/closures.html)
- Changes to **Bookstore** hours and services can be found here: [ebookstore.uregina.ca/](http://ebookstore.uregina.ca/)

#### **WORKING REMOTELY**

Employees who are currently working remotely, or who are in the process of transitioning, are reminded that they should be discussing their arrangements and equipment needs with their supervisors. They should also be completing the Checklist for working remotely: [uregina.ca/covid-19/assets/docs/pdf/remote-work-checklist.pdf](http://uregina.ca/covid-19/assets/docs/pdf/remote-work-checklist.pdf). There are a number of important steps that must be taken to ensure working remotely is effective and secure. Important cybersecurity information, along with other handy guides, can be accessed here: [uregina.ca/covid-19/faculty-staff/remote-work](http://uregina.ca/covid-19/faculty-staff/remote-work)

#### **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge how difficult this situation is for many of our international students as they face challenges around expiring visas, arranging for travel and concern for family back home. The Government of Canada has announced special measures to assist those here on study permits. Details can be found here: [canada.ca/en/immigration.html](http://canada.ca/en/immigration.html). URInternational will continue to provide support and guidance wherever possible. The office can be reached at [306-585-5082](tel:306-585-5082), or email [international.studentservices@uregina.ca](mailto:international.studentservices@uregina.ca).

More information will be provided as it becomes available. In the meantime, take care of each other and stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Thomas Chase

Provost and Vice-President (Academic)