

Coronavirus (COVID-19) - Update to the NMSU System Community - Please Share

We are committed to bring you up to date and relevant information as it relates to the potential impact to our community. We ask that you share this information but also engage with us on concerns and new ideas. Please contact co- coordinators for Communicable Disease Preparedness:

Katrina Doolittle (kadoolit@nmsu.edu) Executive Director, EHS&RM

Lori McKee (lomckee@nmsu.edu) Executive Director, Aggie Health & Wellness

Communicable Disease Response Plan

We are at level 1 in the overarching Communicable Disease Response plan

https://safety.nmsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/72/2020/02/CDRP-from-2018-AHEOP-08_23_18_FINAL-v-2-2-5-19.pdf

Level I – Sustained human-to-human transmission of a communicable disease (seasonal flu, emerging disease); Routine local operations not affected; possible international travel advisories, Center for Disease Control recommends isolation of the ill

Level II – Emerging disease with sustained human to human transmission at a local level; impacts routine operational capability; Public Health recommend social distancing, travel warnings, self-isolation for those with illness and persons with high risk (immune-compromised, pregnancy, asthma, morbidly obese)

Level III – Unusually high local absenteeism (faculty, staff, students); Public Health recommendation to suspend schools & public gatherings; International travel restrictions

Mitigation to reduce spread of illness is the key - Find ways to facilitate staying home when ill and promote hand hygiene and cough etiquette

Continuation of operations:

- Encourage faculty and staff to take precautions to stay well, but also encourage them to have back-up plans for covering their classes/essential job duties should they become ill.
- Recommend that faculty consider how they can adapt their courses if they have students who are sick. Have faculty consider how attendance policies might be adjusted. Also, have them consider how students can make up missed classes, assignments, and exams. Encourage faculty to be specific about these matters in their syllabi or communications.
- Have faculty establish class e-mail listservs so they can communicate consistent messages. Online teaching platforms, alternate forms of instruction and contact (e.g., Canvas, Zoom, conference calls, etc.) should be pursued where feasible.
- All departments should consider how they will function/ provide services with fewer staff. Departments should be completing their continuity of operations plan with reduced

staffing as a consideration or in the event that the university is directed by health authorities to close.

- Employee sick leave policy does not “require” documentation for more than three days usage of sick leave. We need to remove barriers that will allow personnel to stay home when ill or to care for an ill family member.
- Employee work from home readiness through approved VPN or remote access
- Hand sanitizer and facial tissue are now an allowable departmental expense for disease prevention. NMSU Las Cruces campus will be installing hand sanitizer stations in academic buildings, particularly near large lecture halls, public congregation areas, but departments should plan on increased cleaning of high touch surfaces in their local areas.
 - Please report any malfunctioning sinks, etc. that may impact our community’s ability to prevent spread of infection

Engaged in the follow up work and next steps are the following:

- 1) Study Abroad – monitoring and communicating with 2 returning students and 28 others on study abroad
- 2) NMSU sponsored travel – continuing review to assess current conditions and travel warnings before approval and international travel approval through Provost Office
- 3) Faculty Led International Programs – Spring travel planned is under consideration
- 4) Spring break travel guidance for leadership to communicate to students and employees
- 5) Discussing management decisions and flexibility if travel cancellation is needed
- 6) What if you think...? Simple and direct guidance is provide on Aggie Health & Wellness coronavirus web page at <https://wellness.nmsu.edu/>
- 7) Healthy habits communications are planned for networked monitors to reach students and those messaging will be communicated to community colleges as well
- 8) Aggie Health & Wellness Center has specific protocol for handling possible exposures and increased cleaning of common areas. Medical director and nurse are directly engaged with Department of Health
- 9) HRS will communicate work from home readiness guidance, which works with social distancing
- 10) We are already implementing social distancing currently which is in our plans and teleconferencing for anyone feeling ill (FreeConferenceCall.com)

- 11) Increased facilities cleaning with misting sanitizing agent will be expanded to central scheduled areas with guidance on how departments can contribute to cleaning areas
- 12) Clinical site coordinators are working on a short and long term plan to address student learning when hospitals and clinics suspend their site learning experience
- 13) We are reminding all of our continuity of operations plans and to update within our units. Templates and guides found at <https://safety.nmsu.edu/emergencyinformation/>

Thank you for your efforts to manage through this time. We are well organized, coordinated and working with our regional and national partners to address this emerging threat. We are also seeking your ideas and concerns.

Communicable Disease Preparedness Team charged with working on this includes:

Department/Division	CDPC Representatives
Auxiliary Operations	Steven Bettner
Special Events	Scott Breckner (plan developer)
Corbett Center SU	Ophelia Watkins(developer)
Conference Services	Julie Hughes(developer)
Business. Finance	Norma Noel, Business Services Officer
Campus Dining Service	Dwayne Wisiewski, Resident District Man.
Dept of Fire & Emergency	Johnny Carrillo, Chief Luis Huber, Deputy Chief
DACC Health & Public Serv.	Josefina Carmona, Health Sciences Division Elmer Gonzalez Tammy Chaffee
EHS&RM	Katrina Doolittle, Director
Facilities Operations	Timothy Dobson, Executive Director
Faculty Senate	Jeffrey Tim Query
Aggie Health & Wellness	Lori McKee, Director Judi Voelz, Medical Dir Carol MacDonald, Nurse Super
Health & Social Services School of Nursing	Connie DeBlieck / Alexa Doig
Housing	Michelle Bernstein, Assoc. Director
Human Resources Services	Gena Jones , Assist VP
Information & Tech Serv.	Randey Bamford, Planning Jennifer Chandler, Officer

Department/Division	CDPC Representatives
Intercollegiate Athletics	Dominic Moreno, Assist.Athletics Dir.
New Mexico Dept of Ag	Anthony Parra, Deputy Director/Secretary
Police Department	Stephen Lopez, Chief Andrew Bowen, Deputy Chief
Purchasing	Javier Cordero, Director Melinda Lujan- Severs Jason Sandoval
Research, Graduate Studies	JoAnne Dupre, Biosafety Man.
Student Services	Anne Goodman
Univ. Communications	Minerva Baumann
SW Border Food Protection & Emergency Preparedness Center	Tom Dean, Director Marshall Wilson, Biosecurity Officer
Employee Council	Anne Hubbell, EC designee
Provost Office	Greg Fant
Admissions Office	Seth Miner
DACC Administration	Kelly Brooks