



Effective immediately, we are implementing guidelines that will take effect in two steps. In the first step, we will limit meetings and large gatherings, encourage social distancing and remote learning, and prepare some staff to telework. All events scheduled to take place on campus in the next two weeks will be cancelled.

From March 23 - April 3, instruction will be delivered online in courses for which this is possible. The campus will not be closed other than Monday and Tuesday of Spring Break as previously planned on the campus calendar, however, we ask that students not return to campus until Saturday, April 4. Please check your campus email, the [UMES website](#) and the University's social media accounts for announcements regarding any updates. When preparing to leave for Spring Break, students should take with them all essential belongings, including medications and other materials, in case it should become necessary to implement step two of the guidelines, which may include restricting access to campus for a more extended period of time.

UMES is also discouraging its students, faculty and staff from all international and national travel at this time. The threat of COVID-19 will not last forever at its current level. Delaying travel now may prevent you from being infected or becoming a carrier and transmitting the virus to your loved ones, including elderly family members who may be at increased risk.

We are also advising all faculty and staff to refrain from travel outside your normal commute. If you do travel, we ask you to be socially responsible, and subject yourself to a 14-day self-isolation period before returning to campus. The 14-day isolation would commence, upon your return from travel.

These measures follow guidelines from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), USM and [Maryland Department of Health](#) on controlling the spread of the virus by decreasing the potential for human-to-human transmission.

At this time, other university operations will continue, and faculty and staff should report to campus, as usual, until further notice. We will continue to re-evaluate this situation on a daily basis.

Please monitor [www.umes.edu/covid19](http://www.umes.edu/covid19) for additional updates, including campus communications and event cancellations.