

Treasure Valley Community College

COVID-19 Update

March 12, 2020

To all staff and students:

The COVID-19 virus remains a topic of conversation here at TVCC. The administration is continually exploring options should the virus reach our area in a significant way. Currently, all of TVCC's facilities remain open and operating on the normal schedules. In addition, as we prepare for final exams, please note the final exam schedule has not changed. Please note new information comes in daily and sometimes hourly. We will continue to keep the campus updated.

As of this morning, March 12, 2020, the guidance from the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) is to maintain core college operations but reduce personal contact through social distancing measures. The NWAC, TVCC's athletic conference, will continue with the basketball finals but will not allow fans to be present. The NWAC athletic directors will meet telephonically on Monday to discuss the status of spring sports.

Please keep in mind that no one has tested positive in Malheur County and no one has tested positive in our neighboring communities in Idaho. While we do not expect any disruptions, it is important to be prepared for a school closure and to mitigate against the possible negative impacts on the students and staff. In furtherance of this goal, the College has undertaken the following measures:

1. The College will provide faculty with training for Canvas and/or Zoom so that faculty have the ability to provide written, recorded and live classes in the event the campus is closed. **All classes shall continue online even if the campus is closed, as determined by the Vice President of Academic Affairs.** The dates and times for the training will be provided as soon as possible via email by Vice President Alves. Faculty may want to begin preparing Canvas shells if they have not already done so. VP Alves will be present at the next faculty meeting to answer any questions. Students should familiarize themselves with Canvas and be prepared to hear lectures through the Canvas/Zoom format as well.
2. The IT Department is undertaking additional measures to ensure the College is prepared to offer distance learning. Although the College has the technology to ensure most classes can be offered online, it does not have the IT personnel to answer all individual questions. Therefore, IT will potentially be overloaded, making it important for all faculty and adjunct faculty to attend the Canvas training and for all faculty, adjunct faculty and staff members to read the emails and guidance that may be released by the IT department.
3. The IT Department is currently updating the website to include information about COVID-19 in order to keep staff, students and the community up-to-date on TVCC's operations.
4. At this time, there are no plans to close the residence halls. If a resident is confirmed to have the COVID-19 virus, the College will follow the quarantine recommendations of local and/or state health agencies, will thoroughly clean the residence halls, and will obtain immediate assistance from the Oregon Health Authority.

As noted in the previous email, if you are sick, STAY HOME. Per the Center for Disease Control, if you are at a higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19, it is extra important for you to take actions to reduce your risk of getting sick with the disease. Students should make sure to contact their instructors if they will be absent from class. According to the Oregon Health Authority, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever with a cough and/or shortness of breath or trouble breathing. Faculty are encouraged to instruct students to stay home if they are ill and to accommodate class attendance to prevent the spread of illness. Supervisors are encouraged to send sick employees home. If an employee does not have available sick leave, please contact human resources to discuss other options.

If you have had direct contact with anyone who has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus **and** are experiencing any symptoms, please inform your supervisor (staff) or the Director of Residence Life and Student Conduct or Vice President of Student Services (students) immediately. Moda Health Plan, Inc. is one of the insurers that has agreed to waive co-pays and other such costs for testing and a vaccine if one becomes available as long as you use an in-network provider, urgent care facility or emergency room. If you need assistance finding a provider or if cost of testing remains an issue, please contact Human Resources for assistance.

As noted in the previous email, hand sanitizer and tissues have been distributed across campus in classrooms, common spaces, computer labs, etc. Campus buildings will continue to have adequate soap in the restrooms for hand washing. We have also added hand sanitizer dispensers in many hallways as well.

If you have any questions, you may contact a human resource staff member at the numbers below.

Thank you.

Human Resources -Staff

Anne Marie Kelso: akelso@tvcc.cc; (541) 881-5838

Faith Salinas, fsalinas@tvcc.cc; (541) 881-5836

Mary Anne Verigan (Insurance) mverigan@tvcc.cc; (5441) 881-5835

Director of Residence Life and Student Conduct - Students

Kristine Needs; kneeds@tvcc.cc; (541) 881-5792

Vice President of Student Services

Brad Hammond; bhammond@tvcc.cc; (541) 881-5599

For additional information please contact:

TVCC Administration