

March 20, 2020

Staff,

As we end the first week of essential staff only and online delivery for SWC, I would like to thank everyone of you for playing a significant role in assisting in this transition. I feel we have played a significant role in our efforts to assist in preventing the spread of COVID-19. As you can see by the map I am providing, there has not been that many new cases of COVID-19 since we began this effort. I pray we can continue to keep the numbers of cases down and this virus runs its course and we can move back to normal daily operations. For now, we will continue to monitor CDC for updates and we will continue to keep you posted.

I am going to ask that unless it is absolutely necessary, to please stay home. Shop at your local family market if necessary. Walmart or Sam's is crazy and how many rolls of toilet paper do we really need. Seriously, I don't understand why we would need any more than what we have purchased prior to this contagion. Mostly, we stay out of those areas where there are large crowds. Nine times out of ten they are going to be out of toilet paper anyway.

If this virus continues to get worse, I may ask that IT provides Jennifer with remote access from her home. For now I believe we are covered. As long as only a few essential staff are conducting the essential duties, we can minimize or completely prevent any spreading of this virus.

Spring break starts Monday – March 23. I wish it was under a different circumstance, but it is what it is. Please minimize any travel. I am really questioning about those that flew home over this break. I am deeply concerned with if and when the students/staff return if we can safely allow them back on campus. The last I heard was that South Dakota was out of test kits. I don't like the idea of anybody being exposed to that many people and not being able to determine if they are now carriers. If we do not have a way to test those that return, we may have to not allow them back on campus. I will provide a definitive answer to this the first part of next week (Monday or Tuesday).

For what it is worth, have a safe week. Stay home, be with your family or pets, but stay out of crowded areas if at all possible.

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