



North Hennepin
Community College

A member of Minnesota State

Engaging students, changing lives

March 17, 2020
3:45PM

Dear Colleagues & Students:

These are ever-changing times. We expect to provide a COVID-19 update to the campus daily (until further notice).

ACROSS MINNESOTA

- **Governor Walz closed restaurants beginning 5pm today, March 17, 2020 for 10 days.**
- **Approximately 1893 patients have been tested for COVID-19**
- **54 positives cases**
 - Counties with COVID-19 cases: Anoka, Blue Earth, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Olmsted, Ramsey, Renville, Sherburne, Stearns, Waseca, Washington, Wright
- **State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Update**
 - Activated on March 16, 2020. They will meet daily. All state agencies provide a representative to the EOC in response to COVID-19.
 - Objectives: support health care system, shortage of supplies, local health communities, aged and vulnerable population
 - Health care community doesn't have Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that they need now (N95 masks). Colleges across Minnesota State that have related PPE may be asked to turn theirs in to support health agencies.
 - Colleges are asked to contact local department of health; they may need to use our spaces on our campuses
- The Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) and the National Junior College Athletic Association have cancelled sports for the spring season.

EMPLOYEE LEAVE/VACATION

Change: Minnesota Management & Budget (MMB) has reversed its decision regarding out-of-state travel and the three day self-quarantine. If an employee is returning from out-of-state, and they have COVID-19 symptoms such as fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, they should self-quarantine at home for three days to monitor. If employees do not have these symptoms, they may attend work as normal.

If the employee traveled from or through a [COVID-19-affected region](#), they should first refer to instructions on the [CDC website](#) about returning from travel. Then the employee should notify their supervisor about their status as it relates to current CDC guidance. If the CDC guidance or their medical professional indicates the employee should stay home, the employee should stay home.

MEDICAL

Effective immediately and according to current Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and CDC guidelines, any gathering must have less than 50 people if social distancing can be adhered to. If possible, please adhere to the President of the United States' Coronavirus Guidelines for America by avoiding social gathering in groups of more than 10 people. This remains effective until you receive further guidance from us.

STUDENTS

- All instruction at North Hennepin Community College is suspended until **March 30, 2020**, this includes any late start courses. When classes resume, most instruction will occur remotely for the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester, including the final exam period. (Students in clinical programs will be contacted directly by their department).
- Each instructor will develop alternative methods for non-face-to-face delivery of their courses; this may include D2L, Zoom, NHCC email, NHCC Mobile App, and/or any other form of electronic platforms that are free and accessible to students.
- Students will receive communication from their instructors via their NHCC email on how their courses will be delivered, and any expectations tied to the successful completion of their course.
- All Student Support Services are actively working to provide all of their services remotely. Many of our services are already accessible via electronic means (Zoom appointment, email, phone etc.) Visit <https://www.nhcc.edu/student-resources/online-learning-d2l/remoteclassesstudents> and/or <https://www.nhcc.edu/student-resources> to access services remotely.
- As of now, Computer Labs will be open Monday - Thursday, 8AM - 3:45PM, and Friday, 8AM - 11:45AM, with limited seating/capacity. NHCC will be following the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for social distancing and gatherings, to insure a safe environment for our students. If you need assistance from home, please email HelpDesk@nhcc.edu.
- We will continue to process graduation candidacy through all normal processes and will still confer degrees as completed in May according to NHCC guidelines. Regrettably NHCC's Spring 2020 Commencement Ceremony will be canceled, however we are currently identifying alternative options and will communicate any further decisions as soon as possible.

Commencement:

As of March 17, 2020, Chancellor Malhotra has announced that all commencement ceremonies for colleges and universities in the Minnesota State College and Universities System are cancelled. As a college, we recognize the importance of commencement and the significance it holds to our students. The Commencement Committee is exploring the best options to move forward and recognize the academic achievements of the students at North Hennepin Community College. We ask for your patience as we navigate these uncharted territories and figure out a solution for our graduates. Additional information will follow as we are able to adequately assess the best possible solution for the health and safety of our students and employees.

Food Cupboard:

Faculty and staff have been tremendous in their response. Together we have raised \$1,690 in monetary donations as of 2:30 pm today! The need isn't only for today or next week ... it is for the whole semester and beyond, so please, let's keep it coming in for our students and employees.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Computer Lab Hours during the break: Mon – Thur 7:30 am – 3:45 pm, Fri 7:30 am – 12:00 pm, Sat 8:30 am – 3:45 pm
- We are in the process of limiting computer access on campus to support the CDC's recommendation for social distancing.
- We are reviewing our cleaning procedures of the labs and will be making hand sanitizer and wipes available for use.
- Employee technology requests will be prioritized to individuals who have a medical need to work remote and academic support requirements.

DINING

Tiffin Man Global Kitchen will remain closed through March 29, 2020. They are determining their next steps. Thanks to all who provided feedback pertaining to keeping them open on campus during these times.

We will continue to provide you all updates as we gather information. Again, your safety is our top priority. We will get through this the only way we know how – together!

Better Together,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen E. Kent". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Stephen E. Kent

Vice President of Finance & Facilities

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