



3-18-2020

March 18, 2020: Covid-19 Update, Letter from the President

Kettering University

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Recommended Citation

University, Kettering, "March 18, 2020: Covid-19 Update, Letter from the President" (2020).
Communication Updates. 47.
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Wednesday, March 18, 2020

To: The Kettering University Community

Subject: 2020 March 18 - Co-op; Preparations for Possible Shelter in Place

I am so proud of us as a community.

The way that this campus has transitioned to virtual delivery, the way that faculty and staff have adapted so successfully and quickly to new technologies, often having to redraft courses or re-engineer approaches to work in a matter of hours. Absolutely spectacular. Thank you.

But it is also important that we remember and recognize that the work that has made all this possible didn't start only recently. Many of our colleagues in IT and Kettering Global, in the Registrar's office, the Library and the Academic Success Center, in International Programs and Student Life – and in many other areas across the University – have been working for years to upgrade our systems, to add capabilities, to enhance student success and implement tools in support of it, and to create whole online enterprises, tools, and training built on standards of excellence. The groundwork they laid and their dedication to our collective future are paying dividends for us all now, and are making a smooth transition to virtual delivery and work possible. Thank you.

We have more challenges ahead of us. But with the team we have, I know we will get through them, stronger and even better than before for having met them. I can think of nowhere else I would rather be in this moment than here, at Kettering University, with this team. With you. Thank you.

I Would Like to Speak Directly to Students for a Moment about Co-op

I know many of you are watching the impact that COVID-19 is having on the stock market, and many of you have already received specific instructions from your co-op employer on how they intend to manage their operations during this period.

A few of you have also reported to us that some co-op companies have already begun to adjust placements this term as they implement remote work plans and adjust their operations in response to COVID-19. I am sure that you are wondering how these changes might affect your future term co-op placements, too.

The current situation is extraordinary. To navigate it will require agility and flexibility from all of us as our employer partners manage through a truly unique set of circumstances. Each organization's response will be different, including their approach to their co-op students.

I would encourage you to take this opportunity to engage actively with both your co-op employer and with your co-op manager. If you are working now, it is important to understand the policies and guidance of your employer; if you need assistance in this, our co-op managers have experience coaching our students through challenging situations.

Our co-op managers are in communication with our partners as well. They are, among other things, gathering the latest information on upcoming placements as well as current ones. Your co-op manager will be reaching out to you, but if you have questions now, don't wait to hear from them. Start the conversation.

To: The Kettering University Community

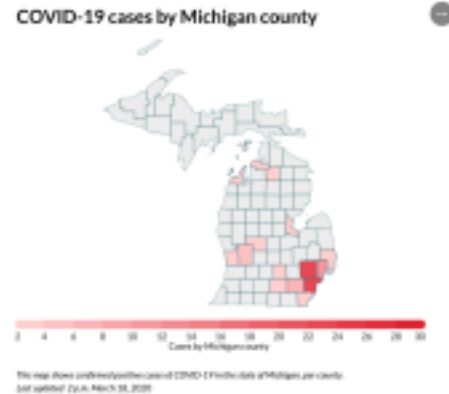
Subject: 2020 March 18 - Co-op; Preparations for Possible Shelter in Place

In general, please check our COVID-19 University website (<https://www.kettering.edu/covid-19>) regularly for updates in addition to public health advisories on the virus. These may also be accessed through our website. We will continue to communicate regularly with you as more information is available, and, if you haven't done so already, please read my letter to campus on March 16, which contains specific information.

Preparations for Possible Shelter in Place

At the present time, there remain no identified cases of COVID

19 at the University nor in Genesee County. As the virus continues to spread in Michigan, and as the volume of testing increases significantly (which will reveal previously undiagnosed cases), we may expect this situation to change. There are currently 110 recorded cases in the state, and, sadly, now one death. The Governor of Michigan has been taking a very aggressive stance against the spread of this virus in our state, and we may also assume that this will continue.



If the experience of other states is a guide, we may expect the Governor to eventually issue shelter-in-place orders for some counties in our state to help curb the person-to-person transmission of the virus. In the event such an order is issued, travel will be severely limited, and depending upon the specific parameters of the order, may be prohibited except for very specific purposes, like going to the grocery store.

At present, even though we have moved exclusively to virtual delivery of courses and many of our faculty and staff are working remotely, a significant number of our students have opted to remain on campus in local housing or in Thompson Hall.

Students

Typically, “shelter in place” orders do not prevent students from moving out of student housing facilities to reside somewhere else. However, a shelter-in-place order, should it come, may be expected to make it more difficult for students intending to ultimately travel home to do so. At this time, **we have no direct information that this order is to be issued for Genesee County, or that it is even being considered.** But experience suggests we must be prepared for this eventuality, and the order is likely to come, if it does, with little or no advance warning.

Even under such circumstances, please rest assured that we will keep residence and dining facilities open so long as there is a need to do so, however:

- Students still in residence at the University are **strongly encouraged** to return home as soon as possible and without delay if you are able to do so.

And in the event that a shelter-in-place order is issued for Genesee County:

- Thompson Hall **will remain open and operational**, and students who feel safer in University housing or who have made arrangements to stay in University housing through the break will be permitted to do so.
- Our food service will remain open as well, but it may be operated under reduced hours or provide a more limited form of food service.

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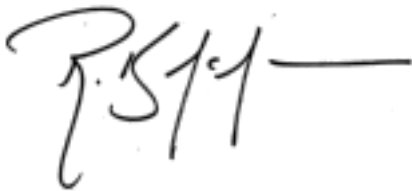
Faculty and Staff

In the event that a shelter-in-place order is issued covering Genesee County, all faculty and staff will receive emailed instructions on remote work arrangements and procedures. Staff in on-campus roles that support student-facing functions that cannot be offered remotely like housing, dining, the Wellness Center, Campus Security, facilities, custodial, IT, etc. are normally exempt from such an order.

Therefore, under such an order, our campus would continue to operate on a limited basis, but most University buildings would be closed. The majority of our employees reside in Genesee County; however, we recognize that some employees may live in other areas that themselves may be covered by a shelter-in-place order when Genesee County is not, or vice-versa, and we will manage these situations individually should it become necessary.

Please continue to check regularly the University website (<https://www.kettering.edu/covid-19>) for updates in addition to public health advisories on the virus which may be accessed through our website as well. We will continue to communicate regularly with you as more information is available.

Thank you & Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. K. McMahan', followed by a horizontal line.

Dr. Robert K. McMahan

*President and Professor of Physics
Chair, COVID Response Team*

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