



For Immediate Distribution

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University System of New Hampshire Update on System-wide Response to COVID-19

Concord, NH (March 17, 2020) – The [University System of New Hampshire](http://www.usnh.edu) (USNH), the state’s public four-year system comprising Granite State College (GSC), Keene State College (KSC), Plymouth State University (PSU), and the University of New Hampshire (UNH), is committed to ensuring a safe and healthy learning environment for our students, employees, and our larger communities. Given the rapid evolution of COVID-19, we are continuously assessing our policies and plans relative to the pandemic. The declaration of a “state of emergency” at the state and national levels, combined with evolving advice from the CDC, and state and local health officials, has created the need for broader policy changes. We all need to be prepared for the likelihood that there will be ongoing adjustments to policies, plans, and recommendations due to the fluidity of the situation. As of 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 16, official USNH policy is as follows:

- All campuses have switched to remote learning modalities, at least until April 3, 2020.
- All campuses remain open for the essential and ongoing work of the institutions, including research and the delivery of student services, while accommodating travel and self-quarantine requirements.
- Students who are not currently on campus may not return prior to April 5, unless an exception is granted by the campus.

- Students who did not have alternative housing over spring break will continue to be supported on campus throughout spring break and beyond.
- Faculty and staff on each campus should contact their respective administrations regarding campus-specific guidelines about access to campus and remote work.
- All campuses are working with state, federal, and local authorities to standup increased testing and isolation capacities that can serve both our student and employee populations, as well as the larger communities in which they reside. Ultimately, this may allow more students to return to campus in either the short or long term.
- Campuses are concurrently focused on supporting and delivering remote learning experiences in the short-term, while strengthening remote and hybrid learning capabilities for the longer term.

General social distancing practices, as described in CDC guidelines, are encouraged for all our students and employees, whether on campus or not. Students and employees should closely monitor CDC guidelines and continuously check for updates relative to evolving campus policies, plans, and recommendations. Students and employees should check their specific campus websites for further details, or if they have any questions about what they should or should not be doing during the period leading up to April 3.

About the University System of New Hampshire: The [University System of New Hampshire \(USNH\)](#) enrolls 32,000 students and consists of four public institutions: Granite State College, Keene State College, Plymouth State University and the University of New Hampshire. USNH strives to ensure the availability of appropriate and accessible higher educational opportunities throughout New Hampshire and addresses critical state workforce needs. A 29-member Board of Trustees is responsible for overseeing the University System.

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