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Media Contact:

Lisa Thorne

603-540-9954

Lisa.Thorne@usnh.edu

University System of New Hampshire Extends Campus Restrictions and Remote Learning for Students through End of Spring Semester

Concord, NH (March 18, 2020) – The [University System of New Hampshire](https://www.usnh.edu) Board of Trustees, chancellor, and presidents recognize the anxiety and uncertainty that the spread of COVID-19 has caused for our students and employees as they try to anticipate the near term and longer-term plans for the spring semester. We remain in regular contact with the Governor’s office, legislative leaders, and key state and local health and public safety officials to assess the best path forward to serve our mission of academic excellence while preserving the health and well-being of our communities. With those priorities in mind, we have made the decision to extend the remote teaching model for the remainder of the current semester and to continue to restrict campus access at the University of NH, Keene State College, and Plymouth State University.

We recognize that these decisions have many implications for students, employees, and our extended communities and are committed to doing our best to minimize the adverse impacts. To mitigate some, we plan to prorate the costs of room and board and strengthen technology support for remote learning. Our campuses will continue to provide housing only for students who do not have a secure or safe place to be and have been granted an explicit exception.

There are myriad questions that these decisions will generate. Each campus will be posting individual FAQs. This is an unprecedented situation and new territory for us all. Task forces have convened and delivered each day and our faculty are working diligently to ensure the success of our students with the remote learning model. Rest assured that our faculty, staff and campus leadership are doing everything possible to ensure timely completion of our student coursework and degrees. There has been no decision about commencement celebrations at this point in time and we ask for your understanding as we encounter new questions and work to provide solutions. Our leaders do not want to prematurely make some decisions that might be better informed with more time and data.

We hope that our communities and partners have confidence in how seriously we take our public mission. Our campuses are partnering closely with local and state health officials to support state efforts to expand testing capacity and address isolation and other needs. The University System of NH is part of the fabric of our state and we will continue to find ways to step up and provide resources to support our health care and public safety communities throughout this pandemic emergency.

This situation will continue to evolve and we will embrace state and federal guidelines and developments as we continue to make short term decisions while preparing to have a strong and robust University System going forward.

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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