

**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: March 25, 2020

TO: Campus Community

FROM: Thomas A. Parham, Ph.D.
President

SUBJECT: COVID-19 UPDATE

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas Parham".

Campus Community,

On January 30, when our Student Health & Psychological Services director and chief of medical services sent the first message to campus cautioning about the coronavirus (COVID-19), who would have imagined that we would be where we are today? The university—and society—has made drastic changes in such a short time.

The resumption of classes this week has given our campus community a needed return to some normalcy, albeit virtually. However, we cannot forget what brought us here. The latest news among medical experts and public health officials that the virus may remain more airborne and that it can live on surfaces longer than expected is a stark reminder that we must remain vigilant.

In my life as a psychologist and clinician, the biggest challenge in treating patients has rarely been with what to prescribe as a therapeutic intervention, but rather in patient compliance with the treatment recommendation. As such, I want to encourage you, in the strongest possible language, to comply with the public health recommendations that have been reiterated constantly over these past two months:

- Stay home if you have respiratory or influenza-like symptoms – fever, cough, and shortness of breath.
 - Call your doctor or Student Health Center (310-243-3629) for medical guidance before visiting either facility.
- Limit close contact with individuals who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Wash your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

- If you are unable to wash your hands, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
 - Use your sleeve if a tissue is not available; avoid using your hands.
- Avoid touching surfaces.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

On a separate note, I know that despite the adaptation that students have made, a great sense of longing for connectedness exists. I feel this based on the letters we have received and social media posts we have read thanking the administration for the work we have done, and complimenting the faculty on the educational experiences that they have missed in the face-to-face classroom.

While we must practice physical distancing, let us do what we can to stay socially connected. In doing so, know that we miss you all too, but appreciate the sentiments you express about our beloved Toro community.

As a reminder, we are open for business and all segments of the university are thinking about innovative ways to manage our affairs through alternate modes of instruction and service delivery. I will keep you posted as more updates become available, or as we make further adjustments to the adaption that has already occurred.

Be well.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Parham, Ph.D.
President

