

Wayne County Community College District

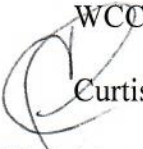
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Dr. Curtis L. Ivery
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MEMORANDUM

TO: WCCCD Faculty and Students

FROM:  Curtis L. Ivery, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Message to WCCCD Faculty and Students Regarding Fall 2020 Semester Face-to-Face Instruction

DATE: August 20, 2020, Page 1 of 2

To WCCCD Faculty and Students,

We have made the very difficult decision to transition all courses planned for face-to-face (on-campus) instruction for the fall 2020 semester to alternative virtual modalities. A small number of exceptions will be made for health sciences and career education courses that require hands-on learning experiences. We have made the decision to transition to primarily virtual meeting modalities, effective the first day of classes on August 24, based on Governor Whitmer's executive orders and guidance from CDC, MIOSHA, and other governmental agencies. The number of COVID-19 cases in the Detroit and Wayne County region show no signs of abating, and there is uncertainty as to whether there will be a spike in infections during the fall. Even though we are confident that WCCCD is a safe place to work and study, we have chosen to eliminate even the limited risk involved in offering face-to-face instruction during the fall semester. It should be noted that online courses scheduled for the fall semester will be provided as planned and are not impacted by this decision.

By making this decision now, before the fall semester begins, we are exercising the utmost caution to protect the physical and emotional health and safety of our students and employees. Our strong desire to provide our students with the benefits of on-campus instruction and student support services is simply outweighed by the urgency of doing all we can to mitigate of the spread of COVID-19.

We are fully aware that the decision to transition fall semester face-to-face classes to a virtual meeting modality will cause disruptions in the lives of our students, faculty, and staff. However, making this decision before the semester starts enables us to avoid the even greater disruption of being forced to make an abrupt pivot to meeting virtually in the event of rising COVID-19 cases in the middle of the semester. The Educational Affairs Division will communicate with faculty members impacted by this decision to make detailed plans and offer supportive services. The Student Services Division will provide students with the support they need to make the transition.

The WCCCD faculty and staff have demonstrated great resilience and agility as the COVID-19 pandemic has evolved during the past several months, and these characteristics are being called upon once again. We are deeply appreciative of your continued devotion to our students and the mission of WCCCD.