

# Letter to Campus Community

March 19, 2020

Thank you for your patience as the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor continues to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic. Although there have been no reported cases in the UMHB community, there are five known cases of COVID-19 in Bell County as of this morning.

In light of the newest guidelines published by federal, state, and Bell County officials, the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor is taking the following steps:

## **Academic Coursework**

UMHB will shift all classes to an online learning format beginning Monday, March 23, with tentative plans to return to campus and resume face-to-face classes on Monday, April 6, if conditions allow. Students should frequently check myCourses and their UMHB email for communications from their professors.

## **Access to Technology**

Townsend Memorial Library will offer computer access for UMHB students who live locally and do not have computer access at home. The computer lab in the library will be accessible Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Students who reside outside the local area and do not have access to a computer or the Internet should call the Center for Academic Excellence at (254) 295-4475.

## **Return to Campus Housing**

At this time, campus housing remains closed except to a limited number of residential students who meet one of the following criteria:

- International students
- Out-of-state students
- Students who work at off-campus jobs in Bell County

- Students who do not have access to a computer or the Internet

Students who meet one of these criteria or have a personal reason that would prohibit them from returning to their permanent residences may request to return to campus housing by submitting the Request to Return to Campus Housing form. Requests will be answered as soon as possible, typically within 24 hours of submission. Until the campus is officially reopened, only approved students may reside on campus.

### **Room and Board Refunds**

UMHB recognizes that residential students have been charged for room and board for the Spring semester. For students who are not eligible to return to campus housing during closure, UMHB will provide a prorated refund for the period of time room and board were unavailable, in accordance with financial aid practices. Please know that we are committed to a refund that is fair and equitable. Details about refund amounts will be communicated after we know the full extent of the campus closure timeline.

### **Clinicals, Student Teaching, and Internships**

We are committed to helping our students complete their coursework and are working with our community partners, exploring all options that are available. Clinicals, student teaching, and internships will continue when available and prudent; deans will contact their students about next steps.

### **Advising and Registration for Fall 2020**

Students will receive information soon about advising for Fall 2020. Registration for the Fall semester will open on April 13, as scheduled. As a reminder, Summer 2020 registration remains open.

### **Upcoming Events**

- All large, on-campus events scheduled through the end of April are postponed or canceled.
- Cru Camp (for incoming freshmen), scheduled for April 25, will operate by alternative methods. We are excited to welcome the Fall 2020 freshman class; advisors will be in contact soon.
- We are proud of our students who will be graduating soon. At this time, no decision has been made about Spring 2020 Commencement; the university will post information about the ceremony as it becomes available. Degrees will be conferred as

scheduled.

- The American Southwest Conference has canceled all conference athletics competition and championship events for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year.
- UMHB has made the decision to cancel all travel associated with Global Outreach trips and Study Abroad programs through May 2020. All Spring semester Study Abroad courses will convert to online with the rest of the university beginning Monday, March 23.

### **Students Employed by UMHB**

We will pay all students employed by UMHB who were working prior to Spring Break for the week of March 16-20. Those wages will be paid on the next scheduled payday, based on regularly scheduled hours. Going forward, student work and wages will be suspended until face-to-face classes resume.

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In this swiftly changing environment, UMHB commits to providing periodic updates through your UMHB email and [www.umhb.edu](http://www.umhb.edu). Decisions regarding method of course delivery and return to campus housing for April 6 and beyond will be communicated no later than noon on Thursday, April 2.

Our God is in control, even in these challenging and uncertain circumstances.

Randy O'Rear, President