

## Douglas Education Center (DEC) Institutional Response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

March 16, 2020 - 5:00pm

Dear Members of the DEC Community:

The impact of COVID-19 has put DEC in the situation of needing to take unprecedented steps to balance our educational mission with the duty to protect the health and well-being of our entire campus community. Per health experts and the governor's mandate for all non-essential businesses to shutdown, DEC will close all of its on-ground classroom education effective at the end of business and classes today.

Beginning Tuesday, March 17, for at least two weeks and until further notice, DEC will move to remote, virtual, or alternative delivery methods. These methods are currently in their final stages for deployment this week. Every student will receive additional information on how to proceed based on his/her respective program and schedule of classes. No classes will be held on-ground.

Students will be receiving information for their program of study on how to access their classes, faculty, and teaching support. In addition, DEC will be following up with faculty and instructors to share additional information, in-depth training, and teaching plans.

As we move to remote and alternative instruction, we appreciate and are currently assessing the impact on staff and faculty, including arrangements for working remotely.

To our students, I recognize this is a disappointing step to have to take, and the decision to depart from the in-person educational and residential experience that we value so highly was not made lightly, but following in line with governmental and health stipulations. Rest assured, at this point in time, your date of graduation has not yet been affected. Additionally, students who are forced to miss class because of illness due to COVID-19 or suspected symptoms will not have their grades penalized.

I am especially sensitive to disappointing feelings our last-semester students may be feeling during their final time here at DEC. We recognize this impact and we feel your sadness as well.

I send my appreciation to all the people here internally at DEC who are working so diligently to bring about a workable for all of our students.

Constant communication about how we proceed with COVID-19, as well as our new alternative methods of delivery, will be dispersed via our website: [www.dec.edu/coronavirus](http://www.dec.edu/coronavirus), email, texting, and our social media platforms.

DEC continues to direct everyone's attention to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the US Department of Health and Human Services, and the US Department of Education for the best information and productive strategies. The resources we have found useful regarding coronavirus that you might also find helpful include the following:

- a. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- b. <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>
- c. <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>
- d. <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

Please join me in facing these unprecedented times and challenges with equal parts patience and cooperation. You are in my thoughts and I continue to believe we will come out of this stronger than ever, together.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey D. Imbrescia  
CEO / President