



March 10, 2020

Dear Lion Family:

As we monitor the COVID-19 (coronavirus) situation in the U.S., please know that the health, safety, and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff remain our top priorities. To date, no cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed on campus or in the immediate surrounding area. However, as a precautionary measure, we are taking several steps to prepare.

Several weeks ago, we established a campus response team to focus on the coronavirus situation. This team is working directly with local, state, and federal agencies, including the Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas Department of State Health Services, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Among many added safety measures, we increased sanitization efforts across campus with a focus on high-traffic and community areas. New hand sanitizer stations were also added across campus. In addition, CDC travel recommendations were made available to the university community, and all were asked to follow these guidelines.

Our protocols, plans, and responses all focus on keeping our students, faculty, and staff safe and healthy. Please be assured that we are taking this situation seriously, and we will continue to communicate our plans promptly.

Official university information will be posted at tamuc.edu in the “Stay Healthy Lions!” section. Please rely on this site as the official word coming from A&M-Commerce, and no other sources.

If we are notified of a suspected COVID-19 case on our campus, the university has plans in place to completely transition to online instruction, if necessary. A suspected case of the coronavirus means that a health-care provider has determined that a patient has met specific criteria requiring further testing. To determine a suspected case, the health-care provider will normally ask and check for the following:

- Has the patient traveled to (including transit through) a country considered to pose a risk of transmission in the 14 days before the onset of illness?
- Has the patient had close or casual contact in the 14 days before illness onset with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
- Does the patient have a fever?

Office of the President

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- Does the patient have an acute respiratory infection (e.g., shortness of breath or cough) with or without fever?

While the test is out for verification, the patient will be instructed to self-isolate following the latest guidelines from the CDC. Self-isolation is a method used to better protect the patient and community from potentially transmitting the virus from person to person.

A confirmed test means that the patient's sample returned with either positive or negative results.

- If the test comes back negative:
 - the patient is no longer required to self-isolate. The patient will need to follow any medical direction provided by the health care provider.
- If the test comes back positive for a student on our Commerce campus:
 - the patient will be required to continue with isolation and follow all instructions of the health-care provider and health department.
 - A&M-Commerce will completely transition to online instruction until further notice. However, essential services will remain in place for students who reside on campus and do not have the option to relocate (e.g., international students). Additional details will be provided to faculty and staff if this option is taken.

Please be assured that, as long as the COVID-19 situation continues to be a concern for our campus and community, it will remain a top priority here at A&M-Commerce.

Sincerely,



Mark Rudin