

SUBJECT: LATEST UPDATES ON UNM COVID-19 SITUATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS!

DATE: March 19th, 2020 2:30 PM

Dear International Students,

We have been getting many questions from you about what will happen with UNM classes, campus closures and whether you should stay or leave. **Things have changed again this morning and here is what you need to know. PLEASE READ THE WHOLE MESSAGE BEFORE YOU ASK QUESTIONS!!!**

CLASSES:

- UNM will NOT be returning to face-to-face classroom delivery for Spring semester.
- All instructors at UNM have been asked to take the course content on line for the remainder of the semester.
- All instructors at UNM have been asked to communicate directly with their students about what they are supposed to do to continue and complete the class with a grade for the semester.
- Depending on the instructor and the class, course requirements may resume as early as this coming Monday, March 23rd – SO YOU NEED TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR INSTRUCTORS FOR EACH CLASS NOW.
- Instructors are not supposed to require any graded assignments or tests before, Monday, March 30th.
- For Applied courses that have in-person requirements (such as Nursing), the University administrations is currently working out recovery options for these requirements.
- As long as you have internet access and complete all course requirements on-line as directed by your instructor, you should be able to complete the semester with your current credit hours; the only exception is applied courses as mentioned above.
- All F and J students have been granted a temporary exception to the on-line class restrictions for the remainder of spring semester.

HOUSING

- UNM Residence Life just sent a message to campus residents asking those who CAN move out of the dorms to do so.
- **YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO LEAVE UNM. HOWEVER, YOU DO HAVE TO TAKE SOME ACTION IF YOU ARE IN CAMPUS HOUSING AND YOU WANT TO STAY.**
 - CASAS DEL RIO AND LOBO VILLAGE: Review the email from them about what you need to do and call the management of those residences if you have questions.
 - ALVARADO, CORONADO, HOKONA, LAGUNA/DEVARGAS, REDONDO VILLAGE APARTMENTS, SANTA CLARA, SRC APARTMENTS: Log in here: (<https://unm-residence.symlicity.com/>) and fill out the "Limited Operations Housing Exception Request" by tomorrow (Friday, March 20th) at 1:00 pm. International students will be given priority to stay.
- Food options will continue to be available via the SRC Market and/or La Posada via take-out only.

IMMIGRATION STATUS

- You will not lose your immigration status if you complete the course requirements on-line for at least a full-time load (12 credit hours Ugrads, 9 credit hours grads without assistantships, 6 credit hours grads with assistantships).
- You can complete courses on-line either in the US or outside of the US and keep your immigration status.
- Right now this is true all the way to the start of the fall 2020 semester.
- We do not have any information about summer, but you are not REQUIRED to take classes in summer, so any enrollment (on-line or not) is optional.

DECISION TO LEAVE OR STAY:

- WE UNDERSTAND THAT MANY OF YOU ARE ASKING WHETHER YOU SHOULD LEAVE OR STAY? THIS DECISION IS ENTIRELY UP TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.
- If you are planning to leave the United States we suggest you do so soon, as flight schedules are becoming increasingly limited and flight costs are getting more expensive.
- If you are unable to leave the US and are unable to remain in your housing, please call GEO for an advisor appointment to discuss options.
- Please be aware that until this crisis is over, that it is VERY LIKELY that more and more borders will close and that you may not be able to return until it is over if you leave the US.
- We do not know how long the crisis will last, but it is unlikely that things will ease before May.

IF YOU PLAN TO LEAVE:

- Please fill out the google form here: <https://forms.gle/8zKQoYS34pb46bg7>
- If you do leave and you have an EXPIRED visa, you will be required to get a new visa before you can reenter the US in your student immigration status (J or F)
- Most US consulates and embassies around the world have discontinued all but emergency services for now, so you would not be able to get a new visa until they reopen visa processing services
- Your I-20/DS-2019 needs to be valid to get a new visa
- If the signature on your I-20/DS-2019 is less than 6 months old, and you are returning to UNM, we can print and send you a new one with a travel signature to the address that you enter in the google form above.

GEO SERVICES:

- GEO is moving to virtual advising as of THIS COMING MONDAY, MARCH 23RD.
- If you leave and you need a new travel signature or I-20/DS-2019, we can mail it to you.
- We are open 10-3 today and tomorrow.

- Beginning Monday, March 23rd, please call the front office to schedule a virtual advising appointment.
- Phones will be answered between 8:00am and 5:00pm.
- GEO NUMBER: 505-277-4032
- AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES ONLY: 505-277-4GEO

We understand that this is a confusing situation for everyone and we urge you to remain calm, carefully consider your circumstances and options and make a decision AFTER you have all the available information.

Wishing you calm, safety and health!

Linda Melville, GEO