

CHADRON STATE COLLEGE

Dear Chadron State College Students,

What is the status of academic courses at Chadron State College?

You have undoubtedly heard the news that many colleges and universities around us have either suspended classes or moved to online-only formats for their classes as more U.S. cases of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) are reported. We have evaluated the situation here in Western Nebraska and, as of now, **Chadron State College plans to resume face-to-face classes Monday, March 16, to continue the semester as scheduled.** In making the decision to resume campus activities, we stress that Chadron State College or Dawes County **does not** have a reported case of COVID-19 coronavirus. As a large portion of our campus community returns from Mid-Term Break, please be aware of the following information regarding the COVID-19 situation. Health officials are taking steps to prevent community spread of COVID-19 into U.S. communities. You have a vital role to play in this process as well, especially regarding self-care and basic steps designed to prevent the spread of the virus.

We freely acknowledge this is a stressful time for all of us. Uncertainty breeds apprehension. We also know that many of you, especially graduating seniors, are probably quite concerned about earning the credits and certifications you need to move forward with your lives. Rest assured, we have plans to accommodate you and ensure your future is not thrown off track by the current situation. However, if the situation requires us to limit campus operations and/or suspend face-to-face instruction, we have plans to activate alternative teaching and learning models to ensure you receive the instruction and services you require to successfully complete the semester. We have planned for a variety of contingencies, all of which have your safety, living and learning experiences, and future at the center of our decisions.

Most importantly, we ask you all to be kind and patient with one another. Together, by embracing self-care practices and consistent habits to prevent transmission of the virus, we can make it to the end of the semester.

What if I miss class because of illness or quarantine?

Given the challenging situation in front of us, for the immediate future, the campus-wide attendance policy should reflect an understanding of the virus and its effects on our population. In light of this, **students who may become sick, or who are engaging in self-isolation at the direction of the Panhandle Public Health District (PPHD) or their personal health care professionals should not attend class, will not be required to provide formal documentation from a health care provider, and will not be penalized for absences.**

Students should notify instructors in advance of the absence if possible, keep up with classwork if they are able to do so, submit assignments electronically as they are able, and work with their instructors to try to reschedule exams, labs, and other academic activities.

This temporary campus-wide attendance procedure requires that faculty trust their students when they say they are ill, and requires students truthfully report the reason for their absences. During this period, we ask all members of the campus community to be attentive to their health and safeguard others by following the Centers for Disease Control's guideline to "stay home when you are sick." You should stay home if you have symptoms (coughing, fever, shortness of breath). Students who have compromised immune systems or underlying health conditions that may be exacerbated by the virus are encouraged to use their best judgment regarding their situation. Please contact Student Services at 308-432-7034 during normal business hours to make necessary arrangements to complete your semester.

Who is monitoring COVID-19 situation?

Here at home, the PPHD has been actively monitoring the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) situation and staying in close contact with Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the CDC to prepare for and



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protect the people of Western Nebraska. **Chadron State College officials are regularly meeting with officials from PPHD to receive updates on the virus.**

The following information aims to help you stay healthy in the event that you traveled or came into contact with travelers during the break. **Given current infection rates, you should monitor your health and any transmission of the virus in areas in which you traveled during the break.**

What can I do to help myself and others to stay healthy?

1. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
3. **Stay home and away from others when you are sick.**
4. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

COVID-19 can be a serious illness. Please do not let a lack of health insurance or money keep you from getting necessary healthcare.

Always refer to CDC for the most up-to-date information: www.cdc.gov/.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jim Powell
Vice President for Academic Affairs

