



SOUTHERN VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY  
OFFICE *of the* PRESIDENT  
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## March 18, 2020: Three Updates from President Wilcox

Dear Students,

It's hard to keep up with the changes as the virus outbreak keeps accelerating and pushing the CDC, the White House, the governors, the airlines, even restaurants and stores of all kinds to accelerate plans to close things down and move people inside to "shelter in place."

Given all this, we feel strongly impressed to encourage all of you who have not yet left campus to consider going as soon as possible. Most airlines are cutting back flights, crews, and reducing service. Some cities and states are considering restricting travel in, out, or through their areas. Some states are ordering all non-essential businesses closed, or suspending travel in or out of certain areas or cities. We are not certain how long we will be allowed to continue to operate food service on campus and already have restrictions on gatherings of more than ten people in any one place.

Here are three important updates:

**1. We are extending this week's recess from classes for two additional days, through this Thursday and Friday, March 19th and 20th,** so everyone can make their way home and get settled before **classes will resume online next Monday, March 23rd.** Your professors will be in touch with you to help set the stage and introduce you to the path forward over the rest of the semester.

Please do your very best to make arrangements and get on your way home as soon as you can and be settled in place before classes resume online next Monday, March 23rd. We're concerned you may lose travel options if you are not settled by this weekend, and the risk of exposure will continue to increase as more cases of viral infection and more flight cancellations occur, and as fewer travel accommodations are available for food and lodging.

**2. Spring Break timing will remain on schedule for April 6th to April 10th.** During the same week as previously scheduled, we will have Spring Break for online classes just as it would have been with in-person classes. Accommodation for this week's class recess period for moving out and travel will be arranged at the end of the semester and will be covered in a letter from the Provost. Having Spring Break as planned will hopefully give a little bit of normalcy in your life and schedule, a chance to renew and catch up or do senior papers or whatever you had planned.

**3. Arrangements for on-campus housing and meal plans.** For those of you who lived on campus this Spring, we'll be in touch with you by next week with information on how we will be able to arrange for housing and meal plan costs for the remainder of the semester.

Our objective is for you to have the best chance to be home, safe, and settled before classes start again. We don't want anyone to be disadvantaged by this unexpected move to digital classes by having to be traveling home while classes are starting. We hope you can enjoy the next few weeks as much as possible. Do your best and stay optimistic. There are wonderful things ahead for you and for all the world. The Lord loves and cares for you and will always be your best and truest Friend.

We love you and care about you, and are thinking about you every day. We'll be staying in close touch almost every day through social media and in other ways. Be safe and strong and optimistic and faithful. Stay on the Covenant Path. You have a great future and as we get through this together, you'll be stronger and better prepared for whatever life brings!

We'll see you and be together again soon!

Reed Wilcox, President  
Southern Virginia University