

March 3, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I have spoken with many of you over the past few days about your concerns and preparation for the COVID-2019 virus. I write to offer the full support and resources of the CHE in assisting you and your campuses in addressing concerns and questions about COVID-2019.

Governor McMaster and the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) have taken proactive steps in helping the state prepare for a possible outbreak in South Carolina. The DHEC has set up a hotline to answer questions about COVID-2019: 1-855-472-3432. Staff are available 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekdays. I want to be sure you're aware **that the DHEC is hosting a webinar tomorrow, March 4, at 11:00 a.m. to provide information regarding the disease, its spread and prevention, share guidance for your planning and consideration, and answer questions. It will be a live call and will not be recorded.** The dial information is: **Dial-in: 800-753-1965 Access Code: 8980786**

For our part, we have been coordinating with the State Technical College System and the SC Independent Colleges and Universities (SCICU) to share information among all institutions of higher education in South Carolina. CHE staff have been collecting information from your websites and other sources so that we may serve as a statewide resource for information. If you have specific information or concerns please share them with us by emailing Karen Woodfaulk kwoodfaulk@che.sc.gov or Laverne Sanders lsanders@che.sc.gov

Please know that we at the CHE stand ready to help any way we can. We'll continue to monitor the situation and share information as appropriate. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I or my staff can be of assistance to you or your staff.

With best regards,

Rusty



SOUTH CAROLINA Commission on Higher Education

Rusty Monhollon, Ph.D. || President and Executive Director
1122 Lady Street, Suite 300 || Columbia, SC 29201
803.737.2155 (office) || 803.360.6114 (mobile)
rmonhollon@che.sc.gov || www.che.sc.gov

March 10, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

The COVID-19 (coronavirus) has spread to South Carolina, with at least seven confirmed cases now in the state. I know you and your staff are monitoring the situation closely and the safety and well-being of your students and staff are foremost in your planning. We have been in contact with the Governor's office, and my staff and I remain at the ready to assist in any way we can.

Any decision to close your campus or cancel events as a result of COVID-19 should be made in consultation with state health officials at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and the Governor's office. Please do not hesitate to contact me if CHE can be of assistance in facilitating those conversations. Additionally, any announcement of local cases should come from state DHEC officials.

Please continue to heed the advice and guidance provided by the DHEC and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Both DHEC and the CDC have resources available, and they are updated as new information emerges. We will continue to update our webpage with information and links.

Thank you for prioritizing the safety and security of your students and staff. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

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