

POINT PARK UNIVERSITY

March 12, 2020

Point Park University statement on response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

PITTSBURGH, PA – From the onset of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Point Park University has followed the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to protect the safety and well-being of the Point Park University community, which remains the University's highest priority.

At this time, there are no confirmed cases on the Point Park University campus or in Allegheny County; however, the virus continues to spread globally. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared it a pandemic, a term the WHO [warns not to take lightly or carelessly](#) because, "if misused, can cause unreasonable fear, or unjustified acceptance that the fight is over."

Because of the uncertainty surrounding the virus and its transmission, the University will take further action to protect our campus community.

To continue to respond to this unprecedented, rapidly changing situation and provide a safe campus environment, while ensuring uninterrupted delivery of educational instruction, effective March 12, 2020, Point Park will institute the following measures:

- **The University will cancel in-person classes on Friday, March 13; Saturday, March 14; Monday, March 16; and Tuesday March 17. Classes will resume on Wednesday, March 18, with instruction delivered online or in alternative forms for the remainder of the spring semester.** Faculty will receive further instructions and guidance from Provost John Pearson and his team later today. Students will receive information from their faculty. For those students involved in internship, cooperative education and student teaching, please adhere to schedules provided at your placement sites. A decision on commencement activities will be determined at a later date.
- The residence halls will remain open to students. Students will also have access to dining services, libraries and campus facilities. The University will continue evaluating this situation as it develops in relation to University operations and facilities. Students should continue practicing all recommended social distancing and public health and hygiene measures the University and the CDC have recommended in all campus facilities.
- Staff should adhere to the guidelines from the CDC on social distancing measures as well as hygiene steps to limit or prevent exposure and transmission of the virus. Further information will be provided to staff today by Lisa Stefanko, Vice President Human Resources.
- Athletic events will follow the guidelines in accordance with the NAIA and the River States Conference. Student athletes will receive further guidance from Keith Paylo, Vice President of Student Affairs.

- Decisions regarding outside events throughout the University and all scheduled performances at the Pittsburgh Playhouse will be reviewed daily and on a case-by-case basis. The University has been in communication with local arts organizations and will continue to follow best practices. The production of *Pippin* will continue as scheduled. Dean Steven Breese will meet with the cast and company of *Pippin* prior to the Thursday, March 12, performance to discuss future contingencies. All University and Playhouse events and performance schedules are subject to change.

We instruct our campus community to continue to follow the [CDC guidelines](#) on best hygiene steps to prevent exposure and transmission of the virus.

We will continue to provide enhanced cleaning services in high impact areas of the campus with the greatest degree of foot traffic as well as provide increased hand sanitization stations in these areas with instructions for proper hand sanitization techniques.

We instruct all faculty and staff continue to alert the University Human Resources Office if you have recently returned from travel to affected areas and to take necessary precautions defined by the CDC.

While the course of events surrounding the virus and its transmission remains uncertain, I am confident that the Point Park community will work together during this period of uncertainty to support the safety and well-being of our students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

All members of the Point Park University community should check the University website homepage and Point Park University email accounts regularly for updated information and instructions.

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Point Park University, immersed in the heart of Downtown Pittsburgh, focuses on student success through innovative experiential learning opportunities. Point Park enrolls approximately 4,000 students in over 100 undergraduate, master's and doctoral programs offered through its Conservatory of Performing Arts, Rowland School of Business, and schools of Arts and Sciences, Communication, and Education. The University's alumni and students represent all 50 states and 34 countries around the world. Visit PointPark.edu to learn more.