



Oregon State University
College of Forestry

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Dear College of Forestry Community,

As we are all keeping a keen eye on the news and updates around COVID-19, I wanted to take a moment to provide College-level guidance, highlight essential resources, and offer my support to each of you during this period of uncertainty.

First and foremost, the [Oregon State University COVID-19 website](#) is a crucial source of information regarding your work at OSU. I encourage you to visit the website as it contains information and FAQs [for students](#), [faculty and staff](#), and [parents and families](#). As you spend time considering how to navigate the challenges the global COVID-19 health situation presents, remember to go to reliable sources of information.

To the entire College community, as you likely know, all non-essential OSU-sponsored travel is suspended. [There was additional guidance on this decision on Friday.](#) In the College of Forestry, if you have a non-refundable ticket or other expenses, we will work with you to find a solution so you don't have to cover those costs.

Regarding field-work, there is no doubt that the restrictions on movement will have a serious negative impact on the ability to conduct planned work. At this point, I recommend that each of you assess your 2020 research program (with a particular focus on the impact of restricted movement over the next eight weeks) and create alternative plans where possible. Any travel, even to local field sites, will require permission from the Dean's office. Katy Kavanagh, Associate Dean for Research, and I will make the decision on exceptions from the travel suspension. Exceptions to the no-travel policy will be rare, but considered, within the context and guidance contained in Admin memo #258.

[The university has also recently provided guidance on remote teaching and testing.](#) I want to thank you for taking creative approaches to maintaining the high standards each of you have in your classes. We are fortunate that Peavy has technology in the classrooms, meeting rooms, and even labs that may enable more flexibility here than was previously available to the College. I appreciate the University's Information Technology community and the work they are doing to help prepare on the technical side should this need unfold. Your willingness to adapt quickly is much appreciated, and your ideas in making this work are critical and valued. I am pleased to report that with quick and adaptive action, no in-person exams were required this week – thank you all!

March is always a mishmash of influenza, common colds, and allergies, and now we have the added worry of COVID-19. While I hope most of our community has identified pathways to work remotely, at this point, it is critical that you self-assess your health and absolutely work from home/self-quarantine if you have any signs of illness (and of course check in with your health care provider for directions!). Your supervisor can help with deadline extensions, remote work, or alternative mechanisms of delivery.

For our student population, if you are having difficulty covering expenses, please reach out to the Randy Rosenberger, Associate Dean for Student Success, or me. By doing so, we will be able to work with you to help find a way of bridging a period of food or shelter insecurity.

Finally, as we move toward a period of broad remote connectivity, I am working with our IT and communications teams to offer the “Stay Home Seminar Series” starting very soon. This will be a virtual brown-bag program, delivered through Zoom, with the opportunity for our researchers to share their findings with an audience virtually, and then take questions. While there is so much digital content available, I do believe that the importance of interactive content will become more clear in the coming weeks. If you are interested in volunteering as a speaker, please reach out to Irene Schoppy or Michael Collins.

The biggest strength we have as a College is our people. Remember to support each other, be aware of the added stress on top of all the other things you each have to deal with, and let’s all offer compassion and collaboration in navigating this difficult period. I appreciate the unique element every one of you brings to this community. We are looking at novel ways to connect and celebrate our community through digital seminars (see above), virtual events, and other opportunities. I welcome any ideas you may have.

Sincerely,



Anthony S. Davis
Interim Dean

Oregon State University main page: <https://leadership.oregonstate.edu/coronavirus>

Benton County information: <https://www.co.benton.or.us/coronavirus>

Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>