



SPECIAL REPORT

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Southwest extends spring break for students through March 21

ALL STUDENTS RETURN MARCH 23 ONLINE

Southwest Tennessee Community College is extending spring break for students to March 21 in light of the escalating novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation in Shelby County and World Health Organization's declaration of the virus as a global pandemic. All classes resume online March 23 and continue through April 5. On-campus instruction resumes April 6, barring any new developments regarding the spread of the coronavirus.

Students will receive notifications from instructors regarding accessing online instruction and assignments. Students who experience difficulties accessing online classes may visit libraries and computer labs on the Macon Cove and Union Avenue campuses and the Whitehaven and Maxine A. Smith centers. Access will not be available at the Millington and Somerville locations.

Southwest President Dr. Tracy D. Hall announced the extension to students and employees in a virtual town hall meeting this afternoon. The extension will allow faculty and staff an opportunity to implement its contingency plans for online instruction. "We have been preparing for this day since news of the coronavirus surfaced," Southwest President Dr. Tracy D. Hall said. "The decision to extend spring break and move to online classes was approved by Tennessee Board of Regent's Chancellor Flora Tydings today." As part of TBR's network of 40 colleges and technical institutes, Southwest operates in alignment with the TBR system. "This decision was not made in isolation," said Hall, who discussed preparations with TBR presidents across the

state. “We asked our college presidents last week to begin preparing for a possible shift from in-person to online classes,” Tydings said. “Similar measures are being implemented at other public and private colleges and universities, not only in Tennessee, but across the nation.”

The virtual meeting with the College’s stakeholders allowed senior leadership to address specific questions from students and faculty to add to their contingency plan. “Our students’ health and well-being are a top priority as it is with all colleges,” Hall said. “Given our culture of caring, our senior leadership felt it was important to visually reach out and dialogue with our students and employees across our seven locations.”

Since the outbreak, Southwest has launched a coronavirus website, canceled spring study abroad trips, canceled or postponed large meetings and events on campus, instituted a deep cleaning protocol that complies with CDC guidelines for all College facilities and advised students, faculty and staff to stay home if they are sick or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. The College also will hold its second Coronavirus Seminar featuring Southwest Associate Professor of Microbiology Dr. Ziba Hooshdaran who will provide the latest information on the outbreak and safety precautions. The event is March 18 at noon on the Macon Campus and will be broadcast live online. Visit the College’s coronavirus website closer to the date for webinar connection details.

Southwest administrative offices remain open for regular business hours throughout spring break. College leaders urge employees to take appropriate preventative measures as described on the College’s coronavirus website and advised by the CDC. Southwest will continue to confer daily with local and state public health officials and review guidance from the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), state and local health departments and other authorities.

Tune in to updates on the Southwest coronavirus website and social media channels. Students and College employees also receive updates and announcements via email and text. The coronavirus situation is fluid. Therefore, Southwest officials are following developments to coordinate the response according to the College’s Emergency Response Plan, which includes a Pandemic Response Plan.

Please stay tuned to email and the [College’s Coronavirus website](https://southwest.tn.edu/coronavirus) at southwest.tn.edu to stay up-to-date on the response and to receive any important messages in a timely manner. Also follow Southwest on Twitter and Facebook at @SouthwestTN.

IF YOU MISSED TODAY'S TOWN HALL MEETING

Southwest President Dr. Tracy D. Hall announced the extended spring break and online class delivery plans during the College's first-ever virtual town hall meeting earlier today.

If you were unable to attend the meeting, the recording is available by clicking the graphic at the right or this link:

<https://bit.ly/39JU4nw>.

A graphic for a virtual town hall meeting. The background is dark with a large, stylized red coronavirus particle. The text is white and yellow. At the top left is the SW20 logo with the tagline 'A GENERATION OF DREAMS' and 'SOUTHWEST TENNESSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE'. The main text reads 'CORONAVIRUS UPDATE VIRTUAL TOWN HALL MEETING'. To the right, it says 'NEW TIME!' and 'MARCH 12 NOON'. At the bottom left is a photo of President Tracy D. Hall with the text 'WITH PRESIDENT TRACY D. HALL AND COLLEGE LEADERS'. At the bottom right is a red button that says 'CLICK HERE' and the text 'CONNECT ONLINE!' above it.

A GENERATION
OF DREAMS
SW20
YEARS
SOUTHWEST TENNESSEE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**NEW
TIME!**

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE
**VIRTUAL
TOWN HALL
MEETING**

**MARCH 12
NOON**

CONNECT ONLINE!
CLICK HERE

WITH PRESIDENT TRACY D. HALL
AND COLLEGE LEADERS

Fast forward to the two-minute mark where the audio begins. Stay tuned to the College's coronavirus website for updates regarding the College's coronavirus response. Email additional questions to djthomas@southwest.tn.edu.

Several college events and activities are postponed or canceled

The following events and activities have been postponed or canceled:

- Saluqi Cleanup Day, March 17 at Macon Cove campus is postponed
- SBDC Day, March 18 at the Whitehaven Center is canceled
- Major Madness Business and Technology Fair, March 21 at Macon Cove Campus is postponed
- Be a Victor, Not a Victim RAD Class, March 24 -25 is postponed
- Spring Career & Job Information Fair, April 1 is postponed
- Adjunct Recruitment Fair, April 4 at Macon Cove Campus is postponed
- Women of the Spirit Dinner, April 4 at Macon Cove Campus is canceled
- 20th Anniversary Maxine A. Smith Center Plaque Unveiling Reception, April 16 is postponed

All student activities scheduled during the extended spring break are postponed until further notice. Details regarding the status of other upcoming events will be released as this information becomes available. Stay tuned to email, social media and the [College's coronavirus website](#).

Southwest cancels study abroad trip to Cuba in wake of Global Level 3 travel advisory



The safety and health of students are always at the forefront of the College's decision-making in planning study abroad trips.

The International Studies Department has been closely monitoring the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak via the Centers for Disease Control, World Health Organization, the United States State Department and the media. On March 11, the U.S. Department of State issued a Global Level 3 Travel Advisory due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Out of an abundance of caution, and in accordance with TBR policy, Southwest's study abroad program to Havana, Cuba, has been canceled.

Students planning to study abroad in Cuba have expressed concern regarding the financial ramifications associated with the trip. Due to the cancellation, students will not have to pay any program fees. The department is removing international studies-related balances on student accounts and will refund any fees already paid. In addition, measures will be taken to ensure instructors develop an alternate assignment to maintain a student's course grade. Students are expected to continue communicating with their instructors via email and check the Southwest's website for updates regarding their classes.

For questions or concerns, contact International Studies Coordinator Jessica Miller at 901-333-4087 or jtmiller6@southwest.tn.edu.