



SPECIAL REPORT

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Two Southwest students notified of coronavirus exposure; College taking precautions

The Shelby County Health Department (SCHD) Sunday March 8 confirmed the first case of coronavirus in Shelby County. The patient is being treated at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Memphis. Earlier today, the SCHD notified two of our radiologic technology students that they were exposed to the patient at Baptist Memorial Hospital - Memphis and instructed them to not return to their clinical rotations and classes until March 18, which is 14 days after their exposure to the patient.

The two students attended classes Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week in the Allied Health Building, prior to the exposure notification. Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, the College instructed radiologic technology students in both of the exposed students' cohorts via a virtual meeting this evening to not return to classes until March 18. While the risk of their exposure to the virus is low, the College's Custodial Services Department will take this opportunity to perform a deep cleaning of the Allied Health Building, paying particular attention to the radiologic technology classrooms, laboratories and equipment. This deep cleaning will comply with guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

All classes held in the Allied Health Building ONLY are canceled and will resume March 18. All other Southwest students are to return to classes March 16 as previously scheduled.

The coronavirus situation is fluid. Therefore, Southwest officials are meeting throughout the day to follow developments and 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 at www.southwest.tn.edu to stay up-to-date on the response and to receive any important messages in a timely manner.

Southwest cancels out-of-state business travel

Friday, March 6, the Tennessee Board of Regents canceled travel to Washington state and California. Additionally, TBR asked all institutions to review out-of-state travel and approve on a case-by-case basis. In light of these developments and those nationwide, the College has canceled out-of-state business travel, with a few exceptions, until further notice. Representatives from the business office will reach out to those who have travel plans and provide updated information.

The coronavirus outbreak is a rapidly developing situation. Please stay tuned to email and the College's coronavirus web page for updates.

For more information about business travel for Southwest, contact the Office of Financial and Administrative Services at (901) 333-4737 or email Mike Neal at mdneal1@southwest.tn.edu.

Natural Sciences Seminar Series and Southwest Science Club present

What You Need to Know About 2019 Novel Coronavirus: An Update

MARCH 18

NOON - 1PM

FARRIS AUDITORIUM - MACON COVE CAMPUS

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Presenter:

Dr. Ziba Hooshdaran

Associate Professor of Microbiology

