

Message regarding the University and Departmental response to COVID-19

Category: General Information - #6

Date: March 23, 2020

Introduction:

I want to express my gratitude to all of those who have worked incredible hard over the last several weeks preparing for the transition to online course delivery. I'm sure there will be bumps in the road, but we have done our best to be ready and we will work to smooth out those bumps. I also want to thank everyone for helping pull together the online Open House for prospective graduate students. The Graduate Studies Office, with Jon, Kris and Crystal, have done an amazing job getting this to happen on a short time scale. Below I include a few reminders as we head into the first week of online classes.

General:

- A Microsoft Teams discussion board has been setup. There is a general channel where people can stay connected and some specific topic channels. Check it out when you get a chance.
- There have been a number of important messages from university leadership that have included resources. Please look for those. I have included as a PDF attachment to this email that summarizes important resources that you can share with students.
- The College is coordinating with the College of Medicine regarding providing health care materials. Currently, the coordination is primarily with the biological sciences where the most resources exist. I have raised the possibility that the Physics Department may have items that can be donated. We have been asked to hold off on that for the moment. Pls could consider what items they would be able to donate if we are called upon.
- For IT needs, please send your requests to action@physics.osu.edu rather than specific individuals.
- For those connecting in meetings with a small number of people (e.g. 2 person meetings), consider using Skype for Business or telephone rather than a Zoom meeting. This can help keep down the pressure on Zoom.

Teaching:

- Points of Contact:
 - 1000-level: Tom Gramila
 - 2000-5000-level: Robert Perry
 - 6000-level and above: Jon Pelz
- Please let your appropriate Point of Contact know how the online instruction is going. Share both problems and successes – we want to know both. The College is asking for reports and would like to know where they can try to help resolve problems.

Research:

- As requested we have developed a plan of five essential people to oversee maintenance issues in the department's research labs. This will help maximize social distancing by reducing the number of people coming to campus. I want to say thank you to the experimental faculty for working within this limitation. The contents of a research lab

often represent a professional lifetime of work. It is not easy to step away and let others take up responsibilities.

Reporting Illness:

- I want to remind everyone regarding requested reporting of Physics Department faculty, graduate students, and staff that fall ill or suspect they have been exposed to COVID-19. Note: You do not need to report to the department any students in your classes, but remind them to follow the recommendations of health care providers.

"If you are experiencing signs or symptoms of respiratory illness consistent with coronavirus, have been exposed to an individual with coronavirus or have been diagnosed with the virus, you should contact your primary care physician.

If you are unable to reach your primary care physician, call the Wexner Medical Center's COVID-19 call center at (614) 293-4000 for guidance."

- Faculty, Staff, GTA, GRA are requested to notify the department as follows:
 - GRAs: Notify your thesis advisor and the Graduate Studies Office (Kris Dunlap)
 - GTAs: Notify Prof. Tom Gramila and the Graduate Studies Office (Kris Dunlap)
 - Staff: Notify your supervisor and Jean Ball
 - Faculty: Notify Brian Winer
- **Privacy is Important:** Health status is protected. Any reports to the Department will be kept confidential beyond reporting to HR and Wexner Center, as requested by the university. Any supervisor receiving such reports should keep them confidential. All notification of potential exposure to others will be handled by medical professionals, not the department.