

Dear all,

I hope everyone remains safe.

The coronavirus pandemic is not an issue that any of us should take lightly, so please continue to practice social distancing and all of the necessary steps to limit not only the likelihood that you might become infected, but also the potential risk that you might infect others if you unknowingly, and asymptotically, are carrying the virus.

We continue to have no reported cases of COVID-19 on campus. Based on the latest information and guidance from the CDC and other authorities, however, and in light of what other jurisdictions around the country are doing, out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of all members of our community, we are doing the following as of tomorrow:

1. Only essential personnel are expected to come to work beginning tomorrow, March 17.
2. Campus will be closed to all visitors as of tomorrow, March 17.
3. Campus was to have been closed on Thursday and Friday, March 19 and March 20, for spring break, with no access to the law school buildings. That closure now will be extended through Sunday, March 22. A decision will be made later this week whether the closure will extend for a longer period of time.
4. All events on campus – whether hosted by South Texas College of Law Houston or by third parties – are canceled through April 5. A decision will be made at a later date whether this cancellation period will be extended for a longer period of time.
5. There will be no school-sponsored or school-funded travel through April 5. A decision will be made at a later date whether this prohibition will be extended for a longer period of time.

We continue to review the situation, and there may be additional changes in the days ahead.

I have received a few questions about graduation – and, if it is postponed, whether graduation would be held during the bar preparation study season. The answer is no. If we have to make a decision to postpone the graduation ceremony, we will hold the delayed ceremony after the bar exam.

I also have received questions regarding the attendance policy in an online environment and how the coronavirus will affect finals. As you may expect, these are nuanced questions, we are working on them. As they are finalized, they will be shared in later updates.

I will update you in real time on any additional information that we have.

These truly are amazing times – ones that I pray we don't have to address again. Please be prudent. We all have a role to play in keeping our community safe.

All the best, and be safe.

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