

Dear South Texas Community:

In late December and early January we experienced a dramatic increase in COVID-19 cases in our South Texas community. Based on that information, the Emergency Operations Management Team (EOMT) recommended we begin the first two partial-weeks of classes solely online. I previously committed to you that I would provide an update today on whether classes would resume in person next week.

The EOMT met earlier today. Most important, the South Texas community has not seen a surge in additional cases. While there still are cases among our population, the EOMT reviewed the processes we have in place to keep our community safe and is comfortable with those processes. Those processes worked very well during the fall semester and permit us to allow for some limited on-campus hybrid classes beginning next Monday.

Therefore, beginning Monday, certain hybrid courses will begin meeting both in person and online. Not every hybrid class will be in person immediately. Rather, each faculty member has the discretion to return now to hybrid teaching or to remain online. Each faculty member teaching a hybrid course will inform their students whether their class is available for the hybrid option or will remain online-only for now.

In addition, as always, students who are not able to return to campus, or are not comfortable returning to campus, due to coronavirus may continue to attend classes online.

Please note that this return to limited hybrid classes is not absolute and could change at any time; if there is a significant increase in our case counts at South Texas, we will return to online-only class delivery – potentially overnight. Health and safety remain our priority. Thus, for us to offer any hybrid classes, it is imperative that every member of our community follow the school's health and safety protocols.

As we return to offering some classes in the hybrid format, all on-campus safety protocols will be strictly enforced. We must uphold a zero-tolerance standard to protect the health and safety of each member of the South Texas family. Any individual violating the policies will be asked to leave campus; future campus privileges may also be revoked.

- **Your individual behavior either supports or threatens the safety of our entire STCL Houston community.**
- **You are responsible for following STCL Houston's COVID-19 policies and protocols, which are posted at www.stcl.edu/health.**
- **Your decisions and actions directly influence whether we are able to maintain campus operations and offer the hybrid teaching format.**

If you have any questions, please visit STCL Houston's portal for all things related to COVID-19 at www.stcl.edu/health. You'll find a wealth of information, coronavirus policies and protocols, specific scenarios for COVID-19 reporting, and an updated FAQ for your reference.

Please make wise decisions, support one another, and be safe.

All the best,

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