

March 10, 2020

Dear Students and Parents of Sewanee Students,

We want you to know that the University of the South continues to monitor closely the rapidly evolving situation involving COVID-19. As of now, there have been no COVID-19 cases on campus. Classes and other campus activities continue without interruption until Spring Break, which begins on Thursday.

You no doubt have heard about various actions taken by other institutions, such as extending Spring Break, prohibiting students from returning, or moving classes online. Based on the current circumstances, we do NOT plan to close the University following Spring Break. Sewanee students should plan to return to campus after the break *as long as they are free from COVID-19 symptoms*.

Students, faculty, and staff leaving campus on personal travel have been encouraged to use Sewanee's [travel registry](#) to share their plans. This will ensure we have accurate information should we need to contact individuals during the break and to assess any safety risk.

The University routinely reviews travel and health advisories in advance of University-sponsored travel such as outreach trips or athletic team travel. We are continuing to do so as circumstances change. Please visit covid19.sewanee.edu for the most current information.

As you know, the COVID-19 situation is evolving rapidly both in the United States and abroad, and we are planning for a range of scenarios. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises that higher education institutions that have not yet identified the virus in their community take several steps now, including updating emergency operations plans, promoting basic hygiene, and stepping up cleaning and disinfection protocols. Please visit covid19.sewanee.edu for information about the steps that Sewanee is taking now to support the health and safety of our community.

Given how fluid the situation is, we may need to adjust this plan as necessary. We are committed to seeing our students and families through this semester and to supporting our academic mission.

Please be assured that we will continue to monitor this situation closely and to respond in a manner that best honors the health and safety of our students.

Sincerely,

John McCardell