

March 21, 2020

Dear friends & neighbors,

One of Sewanee's defining qualities has always been a close-knit and supportive community. In a time like this, that is never more clear and never more necessary. Our community will get through this, and we will do so by acting together and looking out for each other.

The University encourages every member of the Sewanee community to take care of yourself. We must each do our part to reduce the likelihood of spreading within our community the virus that causes COVID-19. This is a necessary sacrifice, and while we do not know how long such a sacrifice will be necessary, we need to start today. We need to start now.

An Emergency Management Executive Team (EMET) has been mobilized to help coordinate University operations during this crisis. Working teams have been established to address specific functions. One of those teams is focused on community integration and support—including providing regular communication. If you have a question, [submit it via this form](#), and we will do our best to respond promptly. Commonly asked questions will be integrated into the FAQs, which may be found at covid19.sewanee.edu.

From the EMET Community Team, you can expect to receive updates via email and also on the covid19.sewanee.edu website.

- EMET Community Team coordination efforts, projects, and support
- University actions, preparedness, facilities, and services
- Links to local, regional, state, and national resources, for official reports and guidance on self-care.
- COVID-19 FAQs for the Sewanee community

EMET Community Team Update 3/21

- The website covid19.sewanee.edu provides updates and valuable information on university and community matters. Refer to it regularly. It will be updated several times a day.
- The Community Council has formed a group to help coordinate services and support in the Sewanee community and neighboring areas. A page dedicated to community topics is in development and will be available soon.
- The University is moving to remote work as fully and as quickly as possible. Access to most University buildings will be limited to students and essential employees.
- Most students are finishing the semester via remote learning; however, a small number of students, who could not return home, remain on campus.

- Emergency services remain available. First responders have revised their protocols, recognizing social distancing and self-protection.

Critical Guidance

The University relies on guidance from these and other official resources when dealing with COVID-19-related issues.

- [CDC website](#) - Guidance on how to protect yourself from the virus.
- [Tennessee Dept. of Health](#) - Information about cases in Tennessee.
- [University's COVID-19 updates](#) - The latest updates and information sent to employees, students, and the community.
- [Sewanee Utility District](#) - They have a detailed Emergency Operation Plan in place to ensure the continuation of water and sewer service to all of our customers under all circumstances, including this one.
- [Duck River Electric](#) - All essential services will continue to assist members. Read complete details in the News section.

We are all doing our best to stay abreast of a situation that changes frequently and to keep the community informed with accurate and current information. Thank you for your support and cooperation. As scripture reminds us, "*Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.*" And the morning will come.

Sincerely,

John McCardell

Vice-Chancellor