

Dear MassArt Community:

Yesterday, Governor Baker declared a [state of emergency](#) in Massachusetts following the announcement by health officials that Massachusetts now has 51 new cases of the coronavirus (COVID19), bringing the state's total of positive tests to 92.

We must do everything we can to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus among members of our community, by slowing its transmission course through "social distancing" recommended by the [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#).

Our priority is the safety and well-being of all of our campus community. We also want to be a good neighbor to our friends in the surrounding communities of Boston, including the nearby medical institutions that are working diligently to serve the Boston community.

In light of Governor Baker's declaration and in consultation with the [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#) and our peers at state universities and the Colleges of the Fenway, we have made the following decisions:

We will suspend all campus activity for the week of March 16-March 22. The reasons for this suspension are: 1) to help mitigate the spread of the virus, 2) to enable our Facilities team to complete a thorough deep-cleaning of a cleared campus, and 3) to provide time to plan for alternate modes of instruction if needed in the weeks ahead. Further updates for the week of March 23 will be sent on or before Wednesday, March 18.

Suspension of Campus Activity

- All academic instruction will be suspended starting Monday, March 16, with the current working assumption that it will resume on Monday, March 23. Given the nature of our curriculum, we need to make decisions week by week concerning access to our facilities.
- All **students** are asked not to come to campus, as there will be no classes or studio access. Please read on for info on housing.
- All **employees** -- faculty and staff (full time, part time and contract) and student workers -- are asked not to come to campus, and will be paid at their normal rates during this period. If you have any questions, please contact Human Resources staff Valerie Gilliard (vgilliard@massart.edu or 617.879.7909) or Kathryn Oram (koram@massart.edu or 617.879.7908).
 - All faculty are asked not to come to campus, to suspend instruction, and to await further instruction from Provost Pinder in the days to come.
 - All staff are asked not to come to campus and to work remotely, in consultation with their supervisors.

Student Housing

Unless specifically authorized, students will not be allowed access to the residence halls after 12:00pm on Friday, March 13, 2020. With the exception of International Students, all students should begin making immediate plans to remain home or travel home from where they are currently located. Full guidance for resident students is [detailed in this letter](#) from the Housing Office in Student Development.

Spring Break / Returning from Travel

To update prior guidance, please be advised that any member of our community who returns to the U.S. from a region or through an airport considered to have a [CDC Level 3 or CDC Level 2 Travel Health Notice](#) will be required to stay away from the MassArt campus for a full 14 days. Also be advised, as this outbreak continues to spread, there may be more countries added to the CDC list, so please stay informed.

Events

- The **All School Show** will be delayed by one week to begin on Monday, March 23.
- The **MassArt Art Museum (MAAM)** will be closed from Friday, March 13 through Tuesday, March 24.
- All **on-campus events** will be cancelled March 16-March 22.
- At this time, we plan to hold **Commencement** on Friday, May 22 as scheduled. We will continue to monitor the situation as time progresses, and inform you immediately if those plans change.

I am well aware that this situation raises many questions and likely causes anxiety. If you are experiencing anxiety at this time, our Counseling and Wellness Center has provided [this resource](#) for you.

We will continue to confer about the wisest course of action for the MassArt community and will keep you updated in a timely manner. Please continue to visit MassArt's [dedicated webpage](#) and your MassArt email for future updates as well as previous campus communications and resources.

Take care of yourselves in the days to come,

DPN

David P. Nelson
President