

From: Office of the Provost
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2020 4:47 PM
To: Coltman, Heather - coltmahj
Subject: Message Regarding Research and Scholarly Activities

Colleagues,

Given concerns about viral transmission, social distancing and remote work are imperative for the health and wellbeing of our community.

We recognize the importance of scholarly activities to the vitality of our institution as well as your professional identity. At this time, the responsible approach given the current situation is to suspend all scholarly activities that require presence at university facilities, inclusive of faculty, staff, and student activities in all JMU offices, studios, laboratories, clinics, and other creative spaces. This necessary step ensures maximization of the social distancing practice required to reduce disease transmission. This challenging decision was made following significant consultation with Dr. Tongen and Dr. Holland, Interim Vice Provosts for Research and Scholarship, and the deans.

The transition to fully remote operation and suspension of such activities should follow an already communicated timeline from your college or by Friday, March 27th at the latest. After this time, only designated personnel, determined by college deans in consultation with Academic Affairs Leadership, will be permitted occasional access to facilities for critical asset maintenance activities. Academic Affairs is committed to preserving assets critical to the continuity of your work once this situation improves. The Office of Research and Scholarship (ORS) is working with deans, academic unit heads, and Risk Management to plan and facilitate the suspension of research and teaching activities in our on-campus facilities.

Although the optimal location for you next week is off-campus, please communicate with your AUH if you need to be physically present at JMU for any reason. If you must return to campus during this time, please keep in mind that the best way to keep the members of our community safe is through extensive social distancing and recommended hygiene and cleaning protocols. Do not initiate any new research activities on-campus at this time. Focus solely on essential tasks required to ensure safety and preservation of equipment, materials, and supplies.

During this period of remote work, we encourage continued scholarly activity, as you are able. All ORS offices remain accessible electronically to encourage and support your scholarly activities.

Heather

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