
From: Office of the Provost
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 6:23 PM
To: FAC-RESPONSE-L@LISTSERV.JMU.EDU
Subject: Reducing the Spread of COVID-19

Dear Colleagues,

As you heard from President Alger, we have decided it is in the best interest of our community's health to reduce the density of the population on campus. Please understand that JMU is not closing: The majority of classes are moving from in-person to virtual instruction, while resources on campus like the Libraries and University Health Center will remain open with safety protocols in place. The goal is to reduce the residential student population, not evacuate the campus, to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Classes currently scheduled as in person or hybrid will shift to online delivery starting next week, Monday, September 7, 2020. The course schedule will remain the same so that students can continue the class routines they are already establishing for the fall term. All instructors are expected to retain their published course schedules and engage in synchronous online learning or hybrid instruction with synchronous components.

The Libraries and CFI will continue to provide extraordinary faculty support. The JMU IT HelpDesk and most computer labs will remain open to students, and they will be able to access learning support services from on or off campus. Faculty are urged to be in touch with their students about course-specific technology needs or access challenges they may experience.

Timeline for Shift to Virtual Instruction

Sept 2-4

Instructors prepare to transition to online.

Instructors will determine whether or not to meet in person this week or shift to online immediately, e.g. in person labs may finish the week.

Note: With approval from the AUH and dean, these types of courses may continue to meet in person after September 7:

- Courses that require in-person meetings due to accreditation and licensure requirements
- Graduate courses for students completing research
- Specialized upper division applied courses requiring specialized equipment and space.

[This decision must be made by Friday, September 4 at noon. Dean and AUH approvals are required to proceed.](#)

Sept. 4

Instructors must notify students of the course modality.

Sept. 7

Courses move online.

Sept. 25

Faculty will be informed whether their courses may return to in-person instruction.

Oct. 5

Potentially resume in-person instruction.

Required Actions

- Notify students of the course modality for Wednesday–Friday of this week.
- Notify students of the course modality and any other modifications to the course for the online segment beginning September 7, 2020.

Your commitment to our students is inspiring. Thank you for all that you do.

Sincerely,

Heather Coltman

Heather J. Coltman, D.M.A.

Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs

James Madison University

(540) 568-3429

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