

COVID-19 PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

IMPORTANT UPDATES JUNE 5, 2020– READ THOROUGHLY!

DECISION ON COURSE OF ACTION

I have decided to continue online distance learning for the remainder of the semester.

This was a difficult decision. I made the decision after considering many factors including input from everyone: students, faculty, staff, State and Federal Officials. My primary objective is to minimize the risk of infection to students, faculty, and staff. In addition to this primary objective, I gave heavy consideration to student input and concerns, faculty and staff input and concerns, the guidance of Ohio Governor DeWine, NIH and CDC guidance, and the results of the student Course of Action preference survey.

Governor DeWine announced on Tuesday that schools in Ohio will open in the fall. The majority of students expressed a desire to continue online distance learning for the duration of this semester. I truly appreciate all the input and everyone's assistance that went into making this decision.

Seated classes, in person and on campus, will resume with the start of the new semester on Monday, August 24, 2020 with the return of all enrolled students and the new student cohort which we estimate will include 40-45 new incoming students who will be welcomed into the CCMS family. Anyone who feels that they did not retain all the information delivered via distance learning over the past two semesters is welcome to repeat any of the courses in person tuition free.

CCMS had contracted to have ICCFA provide the Crematory Operator Certification Program (COCP) on June 3 at CCMS. As this was not possible, we will reschedule COCP training to take place sometime in the fall semester. Anyone who is not able to return to CCMS to attend this training in person will be authorized to attend any ICCFA COCP training offered over the next year free of charge.

CARES ACT FUNDS: EACH STUDENT ENROLLED IS ENTITLED TO A \$680.00 GRANT FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- You must apply for the \$680 Grant using the online form (link was emailed last week)
- CCMS worked hard to apply for this federal grant and we want to give all the funds equally to all our enrolled students.
- CCMS did not withhold any of the grant funds, although it was within our discretion to do so.

TOWN HALL MEETING – ADDRESSING STUDENT INPUT AND CONCERNS

Thank you for participating and voicing your input candidly and respectfully. I would like to address the concerns of the students who participated:

Request: Students expressed an interest in having Power Point Course Materials uploaded to Populi and not sent by email (too many emails being sent to students for materials that can and should be accessed directly in Populi course).

Response: I met with the faculty on Wednesday and they will address your concerns to develop a solution regarding course materials and how those materials are made available (Populi vs. email). Please take into consideration that the totality of a course's materials cannot be uploaded and accessible in Populi due to the need for revision and updating that takes place throughout the semester.

Request: Use money set aside for Educational Cremation Center to refund students.

Response: There is no large sum of money set aside for the Educational Cremation Center. It will be funded through a mortgage loan. CCMS does not have the money.

Request: Students prefer the use of screen share option for course delivery in zoom to display Power points and materials – it would be closer to the experience we get in the classroom with projection.

Response: Faculty is addressing your request to see if screenshare can be used on a more regular basis.

Request: Eliminate the requirement to use camera while in a Zoom class session.

Response: The current policy will remain in effect, however if a student has an individual concern or constraint that prevents the use of camera, e.g. no camera on computer or children in the home that would be disruptive to class on camera, please bring your concern to Ms. Dutko, Academic Chair, and she will make a decision, with the faculty, to accommodate if possible.

Request: Update on how field trips will be scheduled and delivered so that students get these experiences.

Response: We will do our best to make sure students get the full experience of field trips and provide an update on scheduled visits and alternatives to those that cannot be accommodated in person due to the pandemic. Please realize that this requires outside permissions that CCMS can not control. But we will do our best to reschedule as many field trips as possible, I just ask that you remain flexible.

Request: Use of outside clinical environments for completion of CMP requirements.

Response: The existing protocol and rubric published by Ms. Lee continues to be in place for those needing assistance in completing the requirements. No more than five cases may be completed for CMP credit outside of the CCMS Lab. Instructor observation of student's ability is important and required for accurate assessment of student growth and skill. Please feel free to consult with Mrs. Lee should you have further questions; she will do everything she can to ensure everyone obtains the best embalming experience and education under these conditions. Also, please remember that you can sign up to come in and embalm by coordinating with the embalming instructors. S3 students need to reach their minimum clinical requirements for graduation, and must be certified, too. Students that have been attending lab routinely, as scheduled, are finishing up their requirements and many have already completed their certification process.

Request: Assistance with printing and mailing course materials.

Response: Unfortunately, we do not have the manpower to accommodate the printing and mailing of course materials for what could potentially be for up to 100 students. If possible, connect with a classmate who is local to the college and is willing and able to print materials in the CCMS library to

package and send to you. CCMS can assist by providing packaging, paying for, and mailing the prepared package.

Request: Extended Library Hours & Campus Access

Response: Because many students have expressed a need to access the library, I have reactivated student security badges. Students can now access the main entrance of the CCMS Campus to use the library and restroom across from lab from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM, seven days a week. I ask that students restrict themselves to the library and restrooms across from the lab. This is to minimize the risk of contaminating the entire campus (no use of student lounge or classrooms permitted). Everyone entering the campus must take and record their temperature, answer health questions, wear a mask, practice social distancing, continue frequent hand washing/disinfecting, and self-disinfecting all areas used while on campus (supplies are provided for you in the library).

SAFE ENTRY RULES FOR ANYONE ENTERING CAMPUS

- take your own temperature (temperatures 99.6 or higher are NOT permitted on campus)
- answer screening questions
- sign the daily log and place color dot on lower right corner of badge signifying compliance
- Wipe down all spaces touched using provided supplies

LAB VOLUNTEER ACCESS REMAINS THE SAME: Monday – Friday as scheduled

- Scheduled lab students have priority to participate in lab during their assigned day and time
- Instructors will organize lab groups the day prior
- Use **LAB GARAGE ENTRANCE ONLY** (use phone for access to lab)
- You still must take your temperature/symptom check and sign in
- I highly encourage everyone to get as much lab work in as possible
- I believe you are safer in our lab wearing all the PPE than you are out in the public: double gloved, mask, head cover, shoe covers, scrubs, gown, and eye protection

NBE CONCERNS: I AM WORKING ON A PLAN TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE IS AS WELL PREPARED TO TAKE THE NBE AS POSSIBLE

- I ask everyone to remain flexible
- I am asking for your continued confidence and support
- We recommend that everyone to take the NBE as soon as possible after the end of the third semester when the information is still fresh in your memory.
- We will incorporate more NBE review into the distance learning as we continue towards the end of the semester. Faculty is currently scheduling 14 hours of review. This is not a replacement for your personal study plan or group reviews.
- I fully recommend the following to start preparing yourself for the NBE:
 - Begin to review and study your anatomy coloring book now!
 - Purchase, review, and study the NBE Study Guide, Vol 12 now! (\$60 from ICFSEB)
 - Purchase and take both NBE practice tests (\$60 each from ICFSEB)
 - Consider using your grant money to take these tests and purchase the study guide
 - I've taken boards in Ohio, New Jersey, Virginia, and the NBE. The only way I succeeded was by studying the guides and taking practice exams

- We will do all we can to prepare you for the NBE – BUT YOU HAVE TO PREPARE YOURSELF BECAUSE YOU ARE THE PERSON WHO HAS TO TAKE AND PASS THE EXAM
- CCMS will continue our policy of refunding your NBE test fee(s) for those who pass the NBE the first time they take it
- We will extend the time to take the test so that it does not start until after the NBE reviews are completed

FINAL THOUGHTS

- ✓ Continue to practice social distancing, avoid public spaces as much as possible and interactions with the public to the best of your ability.
- ✓ Wash your hands regularly, keep your hands away from your face, and continue to wear a mask when in public spaces.
- ✓ I want to publicly thank Rebecca Schnauber for obtaining student input and helping to conduct the townhall meeting – I believe it was a great exchange of ideas, concerns, and information that led to my decisions.

This pandemic is not over. Elected officials are taking steps to re-open the state and to keep you safe – but you must do your individual part to help everyone remain healthy until a COVID-19 vaccine is produced and distributed. Students, faculty, and staff did not want or create this worldwide pandemic. But we are all stressed and need to continue to support each other so we can get through this together. Decide to make a difference for good and govern yourself accordingly!

JACK E. LECHNER, JR., CFSP, CT
President & CEO