

COVID-19 | Stay Connected
March 10, 2020

Dear Stanford Earth community,

The COVID-19 situation is evolving quickly and the university has just announced that online classes will extend into spring quarter until further notice. While undergraduates are asked not to return to campus until notified to do so, this will not be the case for graduate students and post docs, many of whom live in the area. To stay abreast of fast-moving updates, you can now subscribe to direct email prompts from [Stanford Health Alerts](#) when new information is posted. Look for the signup near the bottom right of the page.

The situation we face is unprecedented in my nearly 50 years at the university. As we work to find a balance between protecting against viral spread and continuing our educational activities, I want to reinforce a couple of points for our Stanford Earth community.

Open for business

First, we remain open for business and we are still a connected community. Our courses have moved online for a period of time and many of our gatherings have been moved to virtual formats or been cancelled. But we are nonetheless functioning as a connected organization. Meetings continue, research continues, instruction continues, and all campus support resources remain available. We are all here to realize our core mission of education and research, even if the format may be different for some time to come.

Stressors

Second, I want to acknowledge that you may feel frustrated or conflicted because you want to take that research or educational trip for which you have prepared. Please remember that your plans may not necessarily put you at risk, but could well put others at risk. Our goal is to contain the spread of the coronavirus as much as we possibly can.

In addition, you may be worried about research continuity, degree progress, remote access, getting sick, financial impacts, or friends and family in another geographic area.

Stay connected

Many things are changing right now, and you may be asked to physically isolate yourself. But we will stay connected in other ways. Please remain engaged. Faculty, check in on your advisees; students, check in on each other and with your staff or faculty advisors. Staff members, stay tuned in to colleagues and students who may be isolated or who are missing important support networks.

Finally, watch out for unscrupulous phishing scams that try to take advantage of COVID-19 fears. Such cases are already circulating to university email addresses.

If you need any other support, please reach out to your advisors, supervisors, a colleague, or me. Uncertainty will be with us for a significant time. But I am confident we will move through this together.

Steve