

# Wabash.

March 17, 2020

To: Students of Wabash College  
From: President Gregory D. Hess  
Re: Suspension of In-Person Classes for the Spring Semester

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I write to share new information on our COVID-19 response, to thank the many of you who are taking important steps to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, and to enlist all of you in further efforts to reduce COVID-19 infections.

- Given recommendations from local, state, and federal public health agencies, we have no choice but to suspend all in-person teaching and learning for the duration of the semester. This very difficult decision was guided by critical advice from our campus healthcare professionals and is in the best interest of all in our community.
- I reiterate my March 13 message: all students who can go home should leave campus immediately. Our ability to care for those in need is compromised if we have too many students on campus. You have a responsibility to your Wabash brothers to reduce stress on College resources so that they can be directed toward those students who do not have a suitable place to continue their class work.
- For students for which Wabash is the very best place to be at this time, we will support you to the fullest extent possible. You are likely to move from your current room into another living unit.
- For those few students remaining on campus, you must minimize contact between individuals; you should not make unnecessary trips off campus; and you should not invite visitors to our campus. You must commit to effective social distancing and enhanced hygiene practices.
- A committee comprising seniors, Professor Jim Cherry (the faculty marshal), and key administrators is looking into how we might hold Commencement, if possible in mid-May, but more likely at a time later in the summer.
- Finally, I urge you to study and prepare for your classes as if you were attending classes in person. Your faculty are working diligently to deliver a first-class virtual education and it is important that you participate fully.

Thank you for taking seriously your responsibilities as members of our Wabash community. If you need assistance traveling back to your home, contact the Dean of Students' Office as soon as possible. Residence halls and fraternities will be open now through Sunday to allow you to remove all of your belongings. After Sunday, you will need to make an appointment with the Dean of Students to access belongings in specific living units.