

The ramifications of the coronavirus (COVID-19) are changing by the minute as cities and states try to cope with the spread of this disease. Neighboring states are issuing stay-at-home orders and we want to ensure we are prepared in the event similar measures are invoked in Arizona in the coming days.

It would be difficult to provide the necessary services and protect large numbers of students living on our campus in such a scenario. As such, we find it necessary to further reduce the density of people on campus in order to keep students, faculty and staff as safe as possible as we transition to an online learning environment for our ground campus during final four weeks of the semester.

**We are asking all students -- other than international students who can not travel to their home countries and students who have special circumstances -- to leave campus as soon as possible.**

Students need to be in the safest place possible if any type of stay-at-home order occurs and we believe that place is their homes. If students, other than international students, have extenuating circumstances, they can ask for a waiver to remain on campus by inputting that information into the personal departure plan located in their housing portal.

There will be a significant cutback of food services beginning Monday in anticipation of the expected reduced number of students living on campus. Should a stay-at-home order occur, any remaining students would be restricted to just their rooms, the campus grocery/convenience store and the Health and Wellness Clinic.

Students who have already left campus should stay home. If they have not yet packed up their belongings, they can return any time before April 23 to collect their things. Those students should update their personal departure plan in the housing portal to indicate their move-out date and receive a pass to access campus.

This national emergency has created unprecedented times and we must do our part to slow the spread of this virus. GCU's priorities are to 1) protect the health and well-being of students, faculty and staff, and 2) allow students to successfully complete their coursework this semester.

Our faculty have worked extremely hard to prepare for the start of online classes on Monday and we expect that transition to be very smooth. GCU is a leader in online education and has one of the most advanced learning management systems in the country. Our ground students already have log-ins and are familiar with our LoudCloud system. They simply need to log in to their LoudCloud classroom and check in with their instructors during regularly scheduled class times and follow the instructions provided by their professors.

May we continue to be comforted by our God of grace, peace and hope as we navigate these challenging times.