

The following update on GCU's protocols related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) includes information on new directives from health officials, the importance for students to follow these guidelines and a reminder that students are highly encouraged to return to their homes to finish out the semester in an online learning environment if it is not imperative that they remain on campus.

GCU is following guidelines from city, county, state and federal health officials, which recently include recommendations that people avoid gatherings of more than 10 people in confined spaces and a directive from the City of Phoenix that declares a state of emergency while closing all bars and moving all restaurants to take-out, drive-thru and delivery only.

GCU is following these directives in order to keep the campus community as safe as possible. As such, students who have remained on GCU's campus should refrain from congregating in dining areas of campus restaurants and instead take the food they order outside or back to their rooms.

Campus facilities such as fitness centers, the Canyon Activities Center, E-sports facility, commuter lounge, veterans center and other high-traffic areas have already been closed. Swimming pools have remained open as the CDC [does not believe COVID-19 can be spread to humans through the use of pools](#) due to the disinfection properties of chlorine and bromine. However, pools are popular gathering spots for large gatherings of people and can lead to germs being spread on door handles, outdoor furniture and other surfaces. As a result, GCU is limiting the use of each of GCU's four swimming pools to no more than 15 people at a time (since it's a larger area than the recommendation of 10 or fewer people in a gathering). If there are already 15 people present, we ask that you wait until someone has left the pool area before entering.

If these protocols are not followed, GCU will be forced to close the swimming pools to protect the health of others on campus.

This is a challenging time in our history that is testing the resolution of America's institutions and individuals to do their part in what could be life-threatening circumstances for others who are elderly, have weakened immune systems and respiratory issues. Everyone needs to cooperate for the greater good of the entire community. GCU students have always been very community-minded and concerned for others, so we are asking for your cooperation to not only abide by the above guidelines but also practice social distancing parameters and refrain from visiting highly dense population areas off campus and then returning to campus, which could put others at risk.

Further, for the protection of the entire community, we again highly encourage GCU students to return home for the remaining four weeks of the semester if possible. This will create a less dense environment on campus so that those students who are unable to return home (such as those from international countries) and those who have jobs on campus can remain in a safer environment. For those who planned on staying and taking summer classes on campus, the decision has been made to move those classes online as well. We are currently working on the criteria that will need to be met for students who need to live on campus in the summer and hope to announce that in the next few days.

Thank you for your continued diligence and efforts to keep GCU's campus as safe as possible.