

More colleges opt for online instruction

Colleges: *Online classes, changes due to virus threat*

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Millersville University and Franklin & Marshall

College joined West Chester, Bloomsburg, Penn State and other universities suspending face-to-face courses in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Both colleges announced the move Wednesday.

Millersville President Daniel Wubah said in an email to students and families that all in-person courses will be canceled for a week following spring break, which takes place Saturday through March 20, and then the college will

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temporarily switch to online or alternative modes of instruction beginning March 21.

The university will then reassess the situation on a weekly basis. Meanwhile, with the exception of those who apply for break housing, students are asked not to return to campus.

F& M's alternative plan will start March 23, after spring break, and run through at least April 3, college spokesman Peter Durantine said. It's possible it could last for the remainder of the semester, Durantine said.

college-affiliated travel — but not personal travel — during the break.

College President Tommy Kiedis said in an email that a task force has been created to prepare for and prevent an outbreak on campus. That means preparing to hold classes online if necessary, he said

Elizabethtown College

Administrators at Elizabethtown College met regarding COVID-19 on Wednesday afternoon. College spokeswoman Keri Straub said an update will be released this morning.

coronavirus “evolves into an outbreak in Pennsylvania.”

There are no travel restrictions in place for spring break, happening this week.

Penn State

Pennsylvania State University President Eric J. Barron announced through a letter Wednesday that the institution will move to remote learning for all classes beginning Monday.

“All in-person classes, seminars and labs will be delivered remotely for students at every campus location,” the letter stated.

Other universities in the region that have announced similar measures include Shippensburg, Edinboro, Bucknell and Penn State.

“We are focused on ensuring our students finish the semester successfully with as little interruption as possible while safeguarding everyone’s health, safety and welfare,” Wubah wrote.

At Millersville, students who have no other housing options and must remain on campus—international students, for example — can sign up through the university’s Department of Housing and Residential Programs’ existing break process, Kacskos said.

Dining options, albeit limited, will be available to those who stay, she said.

Between 200 and 300 students are expected to remain on campus, Kacskos said. At F& M, dining services, the library, facilities operations and the wellness center will remain open, Durantine said. The college is asking that meetings in which attendees are required to sit in close quarters, or closer than six feet apart, be switched to online platforms.

Lancaster Bible

Lancaster Bible College announced Wednesday that it’s extending spring break, originally scheduled to end Sunday, through March 22.

It’s also restricted international

Meanwhile, the college is coming up with alternative methods of instruction if the situation calls for it. The college also has identified several areas on or near campus that could be used as designated locations where students can self-isolate, Straub said.

Students and employees who traveled internationally during spring break, which happened last week, were asked to undergo a telephone evaluation by a health professional before rejoining the campus community, Straub said.

Thaddeus Stevens Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology also is developing contingency plans, including online learning, should the college close temporarily, school spokeswoman Ann Valuch said.

However, it could be a challenge for such a trades-focused school.

“(Thaddeus Stevens) is unique among most higher education institutions in that our curriculum is heavily based on hands-on laboratory and experiential learning,” she said.

It’s also offering voluntary screening for those who traveled over spring break, which happened last week.

HACC

HACC, a regional community college with a campus in Lancaster, also said it’s developing alternative plans, including online learning, in case the

Students walk on the Millersville University campus Wednesday. Both Millersville and Franklin & Marshall College have announced they are suspending face-to-face courses in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

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