

Dear Students,

Please be advised that the operations of Eastern Michigan University (EMU) and the Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS) have been temporarily adjusted due to the University's official response to the COVID-19 (new coronavirus).

We understand that these sudden changes may have you feeling a little uncertain and confused. We want to ensure you that your health and well-being are very important to us, and Eastern is making every effort to reduce the risk to our campus community. At this time, there remain no known cases of COVID-19 on our campus or among the Eastern Michigan University community.

Following is a list of some questions you may have, along with answers that can assist you in becoming more informed.

Is EMU open?

Classes were cancelled for March 12 and March 13. In addition to on-campus residential facilities and specific dining venues, only the Student Center, Rec/IM Building, and Halle Library remain open on these days. On March 14 and March 15, these three facilities will also be closed.

If you live off-campus, you are advised to stay away from EMU during this time.

For students who live on-campus and cannot re-locate to a location off-campus, you can refer to the EMU Coronavirus website at www.emich.edu/coronavirus/ for campus resources and hours of operation.

PLEASE NOTE: If you live on-campus and need to stay on-campus, you MUST register online by tomorrow, Saturday, March 14th.

_ Please go to this link to register:

https://emich.starrezhousing.com/StarRezPortalX/AA077DB5/5/6/Home-Portal_Home_Page?UrlToken=F6AF20B9

Is the OISS open?

Currently, the OISS office will be closed through Sunday, March 15. Beginning March 16, you will be able to communicate with OISS staff through the oiss@emich.edu email address for any inquiries you may have. The office itself will not be accessible for face-to-face meetings with OISS staff, but they will respond to your emails.

Are classes cancelled?

Classes have been cancelled on March 12 and 13. Beginning on Monday, March 16, all classes will transition to an online format.

Please note that classes for the semester are NOT cancelled. The only change will be the delivery of the courses changing from in-person to online. Faculty will be teaching remotely. The OISS strongly advises you to follow all instructions set by your professors and continue to follow directions and all required coursework.

If you have a lab or lab work is required for any of your classes, you should coordinate with your department/professors. NO lab facilities will be open. The lab instructors will communicate by email to let you know how labs or other activity-based courses will be handled.

Will the EMU transition from in-person to online classes, due to COVID-19, impact my status?

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) is fully aware of the issue that is impacting universities all across the United States. As such, they have provided guidance and new requirements for the OISS to follow. In the meantime, in order to maintain your status, you need to remain in Michigan and participate in your classes as required by your professors.

Can I travel during this time?

For your own health and well-being, the OISS requests that students remain in the U.S. and NOT travel internationally. Students who depart the U.S. may risk being denied entry back into the U.S. at a later date.

In addition, the OISS strongly encourages students to avoid any travel domestically (within Michigan and the United States) until the Michigan State of Emergency has been cancelled.

Can I still submit forms for processing?

At this time, we are only able to accept documents through oiss_forms@emich.edu .

If you have an OPT packet to submit, please email oiss@emich.edu for guidance.

The purpose of these University changes is to give you the opportunity to focus on your health and personal well-being, while maintaining your ability to continue in your winter semester courses. During this time, we strongly urge you to practice healthy habits, such as social distancing. This means avoiding group settings and mass gatherings, and maintaining a safe distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others whenever possible.

We know this all can be a very overwhelming time for students, especially for international students. We want you to know that you are supported, and OISS is here for you. If you feel that you need additional support through this time, please visit the Coping with COVID-19 stress website here:

<https://www.emich.edu/caps/self-help/coping-with-covid-19-related-stress.php>

Additionally, the CAPS clinic can provide a counselor to talk with you via phone by day or night. During evenings and weekends, the CAPS number rolls to phone counselors who can also provide support. If you would like a phone call from a CAPS counselor, please email counseling.services@emich.edu or call 734-487-1118.

Next week, the OISS will meet to further decide how to proceed with operations. We will be sure to send alerts to all students regarding any updates to OISS procedures.

In the meantime, please be sure to check your EMICH email daily and check the EMU COVID-19 website for updates and helpful information:

<https://www.emich.edu/uhs/coronavirus/index.php>

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Best Regards,
Office for International Students & Scholars
oiss@emich.edu

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