




# PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

A Member of the Texas A&M University System

## MEMORANDUM

To: Campus Community

From: Ruth J. Simmons   
President

Re: COVID-19

Date: March 16, 2020

The recent and rapidly evolving environment surrounding COVID-19 has left us all with a sense of uncertainty about what lies ahead. Of greatest concern is the real danger that members of the Prairie View A&M community and their loved ones might contract the virus, leading to further anxiety as people undertake to care for their families. The public health crisis that is underway threatens not only to disrupt our lives and the functioning of a variety of offices and establishments, functions and services, routines and planned events, it also places significant stress on individuals as they try to cope with the many changes now demanded of everyone.

Many students have asked whether they will be able to complete the semester. Whether commencement exercises will take place as planned. Whether Spring Fest will occur. I write to you today to let you know the circumstances within which institutional decisions and communications are being managed at this time.

Much of the action already undertaken and no doubt much of it to come arises from factors outside of our immediate control. Prairie View A&M is a member of the Texas A&M University System and, as such, like other members of the System, we receive directions as to changes in scheduling, new policy directions, and the public health guidelines that we must follow. In addition, as you no doubt know, the Centers for Disease Control and the Administration issue guidelines that influence the flexibility we have in making purely local decisions. Further, SACSCOC, our accreditation agency, has issued guidance about standards for conducting or altering course delivery in the coming weeks. These and many other factors interact to inform us and constrain what we are able to do.

As a consequence, while we would like to be able to answer and anticipate all questions about the schedule for the remainder of the year, we can only provide information in light of what we learn from government, system and other regulatory and policy bodies. Each time there is a change, we convene a variety of committees to determine the appropriate response and, once we are in agreement about a course of action, we inform the community as soon as possible.

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Keep in mind that you may consult the PVAMU website to determine if there has been a change in how we are responding to this public health crisis. We will continue to issue announcements as soon as possible if there is a major change necessitating further disruption or closure.