

Dear Campus Community,

At approximately 5:30 pm on March 23, Governor Inslee ordered a “Stay Home Stay Healthy” order to fight the spread of the Coronavirus for “at least a couple of weeks.” The order bans all gatherings and requires the closure of many businesses within 48 hours, unless deemed “essential” (such as grocery stores and medical offices). The action follows an assessment that voluntary restrictions have not been effective in stopping the spread of this highly contagious virus. The order is enforceable by law.

The Governor did not call out higher education in his press conference, and the order itself is somewhat unclear in relation to colleges and universities. Higher education, including Lower Columbia College, will be included as an essential service. Colleges may continue to serve students, but online only. Per SBCTC instruction, face to face instruction or support services will have to be postponed for 14 days. That means no computer labs or science lab or equipment intensive technical classes [through April 6.](#)

On March 24, we will carefully assess the order and finish developing a list of mission-critical staff to be granted special permission to continue to come to campus while the order is in effect.

For March 24, ALL employees should:

- **Stay at home if you can and utilize telework options**<https://lowercolumbia.edu/safety/covid-19-employees.php> if you haven't done so already.
- **Work (preferably through remote means, or in-person if needed) if you are involved in preparing ctcLink for roll-out to students [on Wednesday, March 25](#) (or are involved in the distribution of Financial Aid or Payroll).**
- **Watch for further instructions by the end of the day about what you should do over the next few weeks.**

Our first priority is the health and safety of the campus community. We will continue to provide updates as the information becomes available.

Sincerely,

Chris Bailey, J.D.
President