Governor’s ‘Stay at Home’ update – May 1, 2020

Dear Campus Community,

As we near the end of the sixth week of the Governor’s ‘Stay at Home’ order, I know many of you are wondering what’s going to happen in the coming weeks. Although we all have more questions than answers, this is what we know right now.

This week, Governor Inslee announced that he will hold a press conference today, Friday, May 1, at 2:30 p.m., to provide details for an extension of the ‘Stay at Home’ order. We anticipate an extension to perhaps June 1, 2020. If this happens, employee telework agreements will be automatically extended.

- We know that healthcare training programs are exempt from the extension, which means that our nursing and medical assisting students will be able to come to campus beginning May 5 for essential instructional activities as long as health and safety protocols are followed.
- The status of other labs, including our professional/technical programs, is not yet known. The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges is currently negotiating with the Governor’s Office about which non-healthcare programs will be allowed to resume on May 5. We hope to know more by next Monday, but even that is not guaranteed.

We recently made the difficult decision to remain mostly online for summer quarter. Negotiated exceptions, including healthcare programs, will continue unless the state changes direction.

We anticipate having an announcement about the status of fall quarter by the end of May. More information will be available after the Governor’s announcement tomorrow, so please stay tuned. For more information about LCC’s response to the pandemic, including the campus safety measures we’ve put in place, please see LCC’s COVID-19 webpages.

Thank you, and stay well.

Chris Bailey
Lower Columbia College President