UPDATE: COVID-19 031620

Minneapolis College continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation closely. The Emergency Operations Team and its committees continue to meet daily to discuss the evolving impacts of COVID-19. Thank you for your patience, understanding and cooperation during this unprecedented time navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a rapidly evolving situation and changes are happening quickly on a local, state and national level. The following information is subject to change.

Campus Status

There are no known cases of the virus on campus. The volume of on campus traffic is being limited to help minimize exposure to the virus. Spring break was extended further with classes resuming March 30. Campus hours are being modified beginning March 17 and ending March 29. Offices and buildings will open at 6:30 a.m. weekdays and close at 7 p.m. Campus will be closed weekends during this time. Employees who normally work outside of these modified hours should consult with their supervisor. Many campus events and activities are being cancelled or postponed over the coming weeks. Tables, desks and chairs in common areas are being arranged to accommodate seating that is spaced six feet away.

Faculty, staff and administrators are working diligently to develop distance learning and distance service options for students. Student service offices remain open.

Onsite food and beverage vendors, Tiffin Man and Dunn Brothers, are offering take-out throughout the extended spring break. Dunn Brothers will be open Mondays through Thursdays from 7:30 a.m. until noon beginning March 17. Their regular menu will be offered. Tiffin Man, now open weekdays from 10:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., is partnering with the college to provide a 50 percent discount to take-out diners with a valid Minneapolis College ID card. This discount applies to weekly "Meal Deals" featuring the Teriyaki Chicken Bowl this week for $6 plus tax ($3 plus tax for those with a campus ID card.) The 50 percent discount also applies to all burgers with a small fry for $6 plus tax ($3 plus tax for those with a campus ID card.) Customers without Minneapolis College ID cards will pay full price. Add-on items, such as beverages, will be available at full price. A new Meal Deal will be offered each week throughout this time.

Recommendations

Students and employees are encouraged to follow preventative measures to help reduce the chances of getting sick and reduce demands on the healthcare sector:

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water. For general office work, gloves are not recommended to prevent the transfer of COVID-19 at this time. Handwashing is the recommended practice. Additional handwashing information can be found here including a video on how to wash hands properly.
- The use of surgical masks or respirators as a preventive measure for the general public is not recommended. These are typically used in clinical settings to prevent spread of diseases from ill patients to healthcare workers who are in close contact with them.
• Stay at home when sick.
• Cover coughing and sneezing with the inside of an elbow.
• Implement social distancing measures such as communicating via phone, text or online rather than in person whenever it is appropriate.
• Practice respiratory (coughing and sneezing) etiquette and hand hygiene.
• Students can visit the Boynton Student Health Clinic website or in person at H.3400 or contact them by phone at 612-659-6384 regarding any health concerns.
• Contact the Minnesota Department of Health or a primary care physician for additional information.

Additional Resources

Ask Us provides an online format to submit questions about Minneapolis College. It also contains answers to many questions related to Minneapolis College's COVID-19 response. Today's messages from Chancellor Malhotra for students and employees are available at the Minnesota State Coronavirus Disease Information landing page. Visit the Minneapolis.edu COVID-19 landing page for ongoing updates and resources. Be sure to refresh these pages with each visit as information is updated frequently. For additional information, please visit the MDH or CDC website or call the MDH COVID-19 Hotline between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. at 651-201-3290 or 1-800-657-3903.