Dear UW-River Falls Campus Community,

I am writing to provide some more clarification regarding Friday’s announcement. I want to start by thanking you all again for your resilience and cooperation as we navigate these difficult times.

Here are a few additional details I’d like you all to know:

1. Students received the same communication as all employees on Friday. Those living on campus also received additional details regarding expectations and rules for them over this two-week period. If you want to see what students received, see [https://www.uwrf.edu/Falcons-Forward/upload/Residence-Life-notification-9-18.pdf](https://www.uwrf.edu/Falcons-Forward/upload/Residence-Life-notification-9-18.pdf).

2. We have encouraged appropriate employees to consider telecommuting for these two weeks – however this decision should be made in collaboration with your supervisor. Employees who telecommute must be able to perform their assigned duties remotely. Since students are still living on campus, many of our student services offices should still maintain at least a “front desk” presence.

3. We have declared a “shelter in place” for our on-campus students and converted to remote delivery – this is different from what occurred last spring when we physically vacated almost the entire campus. We have not closed campus and we are not on lockdown. Students who are healthy and can safely do so, are allowed to leave their rooms. We recommend that they avoid gathering and going off campus, including to work. We recognize that many of our students have jobs both on and off-campus. However, for the next two weeks we strongly encourage they do not work in any environment where face coverings are not required for everyone entering the facility and physical distancing cannot be maintained.

4. The information above applies to UW-River Falls student employees as well. On-campus student employees should check with their supervisor to determine the essential need for coming to work during this two-week period. If they are performing essential work and can follow safety precautions, they are allowed to work. If their work is not considered essential, but appropriate safety precautions can be taken and there is limited or no interaction with others, student employees may be allowed to work at their supervisor’s discretion.

5. For this two-week period, most buildings on campus will remain open with limited hours. To discourage any activities which may lead to increased spread of COVID-19, Falcon Center will be closed. Any in-person activity being conducted with students must receive an exception and will be expected to adhere to heightened safety protocols. The Provost’s Office will provide more detail regarding hours, exceptions and expectations.

Finally, as announced in Falcon Daily, you should know that over the weekend, we once again activated our Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The surge in positive cases created a need for a more robust campus response with a dedicated team to develop and oversee operations, logistics, planning and financials. EOC is an action-oriented group, not a decision-making body. Any decisions that impact campus remain the responsibility of the members of Chancellor’s Cabinet and senior leadership. We have already seen the benefits of having this group of campus leaders activated and thank them for their dedication to the health and safety of our campus community.

Please email covid19@uwrf.edu if you have any other questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Connie
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Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-River Falls