Dear ESF Community,

After further discussions and in accordance with Governor Andrew Cuomo’s announcement this afternoon, ESF’s leadership is taking proactive steps to help limit the spread of the novel coronavirus. This includes the following actions, effective at the end of the day on Friday, March 13, and remain in effect until further notice.

- ESF will suspend residential instruction, effective March 14, 2020, however the campus will remain open.
- We will begin virtual instruction on March 23.
  - Campus administrators are preparing for this transition, ensuring technology is in place and offering training.
  - Faculty are considering a variety of options, including distance education and alternate forms of non-traditional instruction. Administration is considering options for students at the Ranger School. More information will be forthcoming.
    - Students can expect to hear next steps for each class from faculty members.
    - Students who are concerned about their ability to complete coursework remotely, either for technical or personal reasons, should contact the Office of Student Affairs (315-470-6660 or studenthelp@esf.edu).
- We encourage undergraduate and graduate students to leave campus by March 17 and to continue the spring 2020 semester remotely until further notice.
  - Students preparing to leave campus for spring break should take with them all devices, textbooks and other critical materials to be able to continue coursework remotely, including copies of any personal class-related data/files stored on ESF or SU network drives. In addition, students should take all personal effects, valuables or other items that may be needed for a potential extended period of time away from campus.
  - Residents of Centennial Hall who plan to stay on campus during spring break must complete an online form indicating a desire to do so. The form is available here.
  - Additional information for Centennial Hall residents will be forthcoming, including guidance for moving out, should that become appropriate.
Graduate students conducting research may continue their programs, in accordance with guidelines established for travel and group activities (see below).

Research labs will remain open and operational, in accordance with guidelines established for travel and group activities (see below).

Employees will be expected to report to work. More information regarding student employees (RAs, GAs, TAs, etc.) will be forthcoming.

Social distancing measures will be implemented.

- Events and meetings, including athletic contests, scheduled through the end of the spring semester that expect 50 or more people will be canceled. Some of these events have NOT been canceled yet, including Commencement, and are being evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- When working in close proximity to other individuals, attempt to keep a distance of six feet from the nearest person.
- College-sponsored international travel to CDC-level 2 and level-3 countries will not be authorized. In addition, experts now recommend social distancing, which is not possible on mass transit. Instead public transportation brings large numbers of people into close proximity, which carries the risk of transmission from undiagnosed carriers of the virus. In addition, all travel at this time carries risk, including health screenings at airports and potential quarantines upon re-entry to the United States. Most carriers are allowing people to reschedule travel; please consider postponing international travel and trips to densely populated locations within the United States.

The college’s webpage will be updated regularly, and the college will use email and the webpage as the primary means of communication throughout this situation. Members of the community are urged to check email and the webpage at least daily.

All of us at ESF are collaboratively working with experts in the community and around the state to plan for the worst while remaining hopeful. I recognize that this is a challenge, and I appreciate your support and cooperation. I am fully confident that working together, we can realize our mission. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Dave Amberg
Interim President