Dear Spartan Community:

You keep hearing the words “unprecedented time.” This truly is a time like we have never experienced before in regard to the novel coronavirus pandemic that has forced closures of public places, including our University. Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has extended her “Stay Home, Stay Safe” executive order through May 15.

As we work through these days, we want to ensure you have the information you need from MSU. We have organized in this communication information we believe most important. Links are provided so you may access all related details.

We again want to emphasize the importance of remembering our MSU community is one that values diversity, equity and inclusion. There are members of our community who continue to be concerned about and experience xenophobia in relation to the novel coronavirus. This does not align with our institutional values. Please visit the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) website to report any instances and to reach out to staff and faculty who can support you and direct you to helpful resources. We stand with you and are here to support you. **We are all Spartans.**

**SOS COVID-19 Fund**

We understand this pandemic has not only changed the way we currently live but has also resulted in many of you experiencing financial difficulties. As you may know, we opened applications for the Support our Spartans Student Emergency Needs Fund for COVID-19 (SOS COVID-19 Fund) to support students who have lost jobs, are unable to return home or face other financial challenges because of the pandemic. The fund is comprised of gifts from the Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU) and MSU Residence Halls Association (RHA) totaling $265,000, with total funds of $335,000 available. We continue accepting gifts to the SOS COVID-19 Fund to help meet the need.

More than 7,400 applications were received. We are diligently working to review applications and students will receive an answer within five days of the review of their application. The formal review of applications began Thursday, April 23.

Students may also apply for assistance from MSU’s $14.9 million in MSU CARES4Students Grant through the Office of Financial Aid. The funds will be distributed to eligible students to address the financial problems created for them by necessary changes at MSU as it responded to the novel coronavirus. The University is developing an online application. Once available, it will be posted on the Office of Financial Aid website. Please check the site regularly.

**Final exams**

Undergraduate students will enter finals week on Monday, April 27. First, we want to wish you all the best in your upcoming finals. We also want to acknowledge your hard work, especially now when unexpected changes and challenges have forced you to end your spring semester virtually.

Finals occur during Ramadan, the Muslim holy month. MSU’s Religious Observance Policy outlines the rights and responsibilities of both faculty and students with respect to accommodations based on one’s religious observance. Students are responsible to make arrangements in advance with their instructors, so we encourage you to be specific with faculty about your needs for observance.

**Commencement**
MSU will hold a virtual commencement celebration May 16 for all undergraduate and graduate students earning degrees spring semester. This event will not replace an in-person commencement; members of the class of 2020 will be invited to participate in a future in-person commencement.

The virtual ceremony will be held via MSU’s Facebook page beginning at 10 a.m. EDT May 16, and will include remarks from MSU President Samuel Stanley Jr., M.D., and Interim Provost Teresa A. Sullivan, Ph.D., along with musical performances from students in the College of Music. A recording will be available on the MSU commencement webpage following the event.

Tuition
MSU is holding tuition rates steady for the 2020-21 academic year. The tuition freeze is subject to formal approval of the 2020-21 budget by the MSU Board of Trustees at their next formal meeting. Tuition rates for undergraduate students have been held steady since the 2018-2019 academic year.

Summer Sessions and Programs
The university has moved both summer sessions to online classes. This change does not affect clinical courses in the health science colleges. Visit the Keep Learning website for more.

Summer academic camps will be offered online or canceled and summer sports camps have been canceled.

Staying connected
Given finals week and the move to virtual instruction continuing through summer, finding available Wi-Fi remains important. This MSU campus map identifies outdoor Wi-Fi access. Some campus buildings with Wi-Fi are open, including these buildings:
- Student Affairs and Services, VP Office (8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday) and open areas during regular building hours.
- Brody Hall – open 7:30 a.m.- 8 p.m.
- MSU Union - open 8 a.m.- 8 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday.

Please be mindful of maintaining social distancing when using these spaces.

For those of you trying to stay connected elsewhere, the Michigan Association of State Universities shared information that Comcast/Xfinity and Charter/Spectrum would provide two months of free service for broadband internet access to households with K-12 and college students and/or low-income households. More information is available for Comcast/Xfinity and for Charter/Spectrum. While MSU is a member of this Association, MSU is simply providing this information and does not endorse either service. As with any service provider, review the terms of service and any contracts carefully to avoid unwittingly committing to a paid continuation of the service or other unwanted terms.

Another possible option for students who are near a college campus other than MSU is using your MSU credentials to access Wi-Fi via Eduroam – a world-wide roaming access service developed for the international research and education community. Visit https://www.eduroam.org/where/ to find a map of global locations and learn how to use this resource. If you choose to use Eduroam and visit a location where it may be available to you, ensure the location is safe and you can maintain social distancing.

Summer housing
Campus summer housing is open at liveon.msu. Due to COVID-19 concerns, students will be offered their own room. Current students can live on campus free of a housing charge this summer with the purchase of a summer dining plan. To be eligible you must also have a:

- Spring 2020 housing contract
- Spring 2020 unlimited dining plan
- Fall 2020 housing contract
- Fall 2020 unlimited dining plan

Students who cannot return home due to extenuating circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic are also welcomed to stay on campus. Find more information at liveon.msu.

Grading updates
A transcript annotation is a common practice among most institutions for this semester. The following text will appear on all MSU transcripts for Spring 2020: As the novel coronavirus pandemic required significant changes to instruction, S-Satisfactory and NS-Not Satisfactory grades were made available to undergraduate and graduate students. Remember you have a two-week period to make a decision about how you would like your grade posted; please visit the remote.msu.edu website for details. More details about recording grades along with FAQs to help navigate your decision are available on the remote.msu.edu website. Students are encouraged to work with academic advisors to determine which option is right for your individual needs. For more information, visit the Academic Advising Resources web page.

Continue to take care of yourself
This is a difficult time for many when social distancing and stay in place orders established to keep us safe can make us feel disconnected from our communities. Please reach out for support. MSU Counseling & Psychiatric Services (CAPS) staff are working remotely to meet the needs of MSU students. If you are a student in crisis, please call 911, go to your nearest emergency room or call CAPS anytime day or night at 517-355-8270 and press "1" at the prompt to receive assistance from a crisis counselor over the phone. For all other information, including appointments, please visit the CAPS website, or reach out through the MyMSUHealth patient portal.

Should you need medical attention, contact your local medical provider. For those on or near campus, Olin Health Center continues to be open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Please call 517-353-4660 first if you would like to see a medical provider. To refill prescriptions, use the MyMSUHealth patient portal. Please note, the Olin Pharmacy is temporarily closed, and prescriptions are being filled through the Clinical Center Pharmacy.

Recreational Sports and Fitness Services updates
Changes have been made to outdoor recreational equipment on campus not consistent with the CDC's social distancing standards. The following equipment has been temporarily removed and stored until further notice:

- All basketball rims and volleyball nets at IM and RHS facilities
- All soccer goals
- Playground equipment at Spartan Day Care and Child Development Lab

Student Affairs and Services
The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Services (SSB 150) remains open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday and the Student Services Building is open during regularly scheduled hours.
Monday - Friday. You can reach us at 517-355-7535 or via studentaffairs@msu.edu. Other SAS offices may be reached virtually during normal business hours. Visit the Student Affairs and Services website to stay engaged, access information and find virtual opportunities. Also stay informed via our COVID-19 Information and Resources webpage.

To stay up to date on the coronavirus and MSU, visit msu.edu/coronavirus or call our toll-free coronavirus hotline at 888-353-1294.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Denise B. Maybank

Denise B. Maybank, Ph.D.
Vice President and Associate Provost
for Student Affairs and Services