

Dear MCLA Student,

We realize that yesterday's decision to move to remote instruction and close the residence areas is complicated and difficult. This communication is intended to answer some of the questions you may have as indicated by the calls received on the hotline MCLA has set up for your questions regarding COVID-19. As a reminder, that hotline is available Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., at 413-662-5550.

Information for Resident Students

Students will be able to retrieve their personal belongings from their spring on-campus housing assignment/residence area, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Friday, March 20, through Friday, March 27. Tomorrow, you will receive an e-mail containing a form link. This form will allow you to select a time that works best for you to return to campus. Students who are unable to come to campus during this time period should contact Residential Programs and Services (RPS) at 413-662-5249.

Please know that the schedule for moving out has been created to maintain appropriate social distancing. That said, it is very important for you **not** to come to campus at a time for which you are not scheduled. It is also important for you to arrive on time for your scheduled appointment and to pack and leave your residence area as swiftly as possible. Students who are unable to come to campus during this time period should contact RPS at 413-662-5249.

As President Birge said yesterday, a small number of students may be given permission to live on campus for the remainder of the semester as their situations require. **Information on how you may petition to do so will also be included in tomorrow's email.**

For further information on housing related issues, please call my office at 413-662-5231. At this time, we have no further details, but are working to provide additional information to you as quickly as we can.

We encourage resident students to visit the mailroom during your scheduled time on campus to pick up any mail or packages you may have.

Remote Learning Help

The Center for Academic Technology has put together an excellent resource for students (and faculty) as we transition to remote instruction: www.mcla.edu/remoteready.

This guide will be continuously updated and more information will be shared with you as we prepare to resume classes remotely on March 30. Your professors will reach out to you with additional information about specific courses.

Information for Seniors

The spread of the COVID-19 virus will determine future decisions about MCLA social gatherings, including Commencement. MCLA intends to hold Commencement Exercises for this year's graduating students, although the date is uncertain at this time.

When we have more clarity on the timing of the repeal of social gathering prohibitions, we will plan Commencement accordingly. We are also developing opportunities for seniors to remain engaged virtually until that time and will reach out to you soon to get your ideas.

Information about Counseling Services and Health Services

Counseling Services and Health Services are working on plans and resources to support our students remotely. More information will follow, but you may call each office directly if you have questions. Counseling Services may be reached at 413- 662-5331 and Health Services may be reached at 413-662-5421.

As a reminder, please continue to monitor you MCLA email as this will be the primary source of new information and updates.

Best,
Cathy

Catherine Holbrook, Ph.D.
Vice President, Student Affairs