

Dear MCLA Student,

Earlier today, Governor Baker directed the Department of Public Health to issue a stay-at-home advisory for Massachusetts. Gov. Baker issued this advisory for temporary closure of non-essential businesses beginning tomorrow, March 24, 2020, at noon, through April 6, 2020.

Colleges and Universities are exempt from this order, but only for the purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing other essential student support functions.

Though this means MCLA offices will be on reduced staffing or will not be open to the public beginning on March 24, **this directive will not impact our move to remote instruction for the rest of the spring semester**, which is set to begin on March 30. For questions regarding your courses, please contact your professors directly using your MCLA email account. For technical assistance, please go to mcla.edu/remoteready.

Resident students will be allowed to come pick up their things as planned at the time you scheduled using the sign-up system in the email I sent you on March 18. If you have not arranged a time to remove your personal belongings, please contact Residential Programs and Services immediately at 413.662.5249.

As you prepare for remote instruction for the duration of the semester, please bookmark this helpful information:

- Information Technology has shared a list of Internet Service Providers working with students who do not have reliable internet access. See the list here: http://techhelp.mcla.edu/index.php/Internet_Service_-_Coronavirus
- The Center for Teaching and Learning has created a list of resources for students and faculty around remote instruction here: mcla.edu/remoteready

Please know that we will continue to do our best to serve you for the remainder of the semester, but note that due to the volume of communication we are receiving at this time, returning phone calls and messages may take longer than typical.

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