



**University System of Maryland Statement Regarding Staff Remaining on
Campus During Current Telework Period
March 16, 2020**

The safety and wellness of students, faculty, and staff are paramount as the University System of Maryland (USM) develops protocols in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Our institutions currently remain open under USM telework guidance and they are transitioning students to remote and online learning following spring break. They are also supporting students who will need housing, as well as faculty who need additional resources to transition classes to remote formats.

Once classes resume on a remote basis, there remains a need for a limited number of staff to maintain and operate campus facilities, technology and administrative infrastructures. There will be a need to maintain some residence halls and limited dining services to support students who have no other option but to remain on campus. Laboratories and a technology infrastructure will need to be supported and maintained. Some USM regional higher education centers (RHEC) may also maintain some of their training facilities for customers consistent with the CDC recommendations on social distancing. Institutions requiring such staffing will be following all state and federal health protocols regarding the safety of persons on campus, including cleaning and sanitizing of campus facilities as well as practicing safe community mitigation practices such as limited gatherings and social distancing.

No staff member who is immuno-compromised or otherwise considered by CDC guidance to be high-risk regarding COVID-19 will be required to work on campus. Faculty and staff over the age of 60, or those with CDC-recognized underlying conditions, can contact their human resources office on a confidential basis and arrange telework, use accrued sick or other leave, or receive an excused absence.

Given such varied institutional circumstances and needs, USM Chancellor Jay A. Perman is working with System presidents and RHEC directors to facilitate resources and develop unified operating protocols during this period. As the situation evolves, USM leadership continues monitoring and adjusting as needed.

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