



March 19, 2020

**URGENT MESSAGE TO OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS
FROM THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT AND TOWN OF BLOOMSBURG MAYOR**

With the community's health and safety in mind, Bloomsburg University has decided to deliver all classes online beginning March 23 through the end of the Spring 2020 semester. You can stay current on university updates by checking bloomu.edu/coronavirus and your university email.

The spread of novel coronavirus is a public health emergency not only throughout the country (with confirmed cases in every state), but also right here in our community. Just this week, the Geisinger Health System, headquartered in Danville, PA, confirmed its first three patients with presumed positive results for the novel coronavirus. This is a serious, life-threatening situation, and it is essential that off-campus student residents join with the rest of our community to take measures to slow the spread of this virus. **We strongly discourage students from returning to off-campus housing through the rest of the semester.** We understand that this is a difficult time for you, but we implore students to take this situation seriously and to heed the guidance from public health officials.

Earlier this week, the Town of Bloomsburg followed President Trump and Governor Wolf in declaring a state of emergency. We are aware that some students may wish to remain in or return to Bloomsburg for the purpose of hosting off-campus social gatherings. It would be irresponsible to host a social gathering for the duration of this emergency, and by doing so, you are putting your friends, family, neighbors, the community, and ultimately yourselves at great risk.

As the situation evolves in the coming days and weeks, the Town of Bloomsburg retains the right to enact temporary emergency decrees that limit social gatherings, impose curfews, and enforce social distancing as deemed necessary and justified. Any violations of orders by the Town of Bloomsburg may also be considered a violation of Bloomsburg University's Student Code of Conduct and adjudicated accordingly.

We both have full faith in our expectation that BU students will partner with the residents of Bloomsburg during this national health crisis. We thank you in advance for taking these necessary steps to protect yourselves, your fellow Huskies and loved ones, and our community.

Sincerely,

Bashar W. Hanna, Ph.D.
President, Bloomsburg University

William Kreisher
Mayor, Town of Bloomsburg