

URGENT

March 20, 2020; 14:00

All,

Thank you for being patient and working with us as we, like you and your agencies, navigate these difficult times. Currently scheduled fire and rescue classes will continue.

As of Monday, March 23, Gaston College will be closed to students and the public until further notice. As noted yesterday, face-to-face classes will be suspended as of Monday, **with the exception of the public safety and public health programs** identified by the NC Community College System as critical in response to this crisis.

Beginning Monday, March 23, our offices will be operating with limited staffing. We will continue to have telephone and email access. Please use these forms of communication and refrain from visits to campus unless for instructional purposes. We will be responsive to your needs however, continue to be patient as our response may not be as immediate as you are accustomed to. Be aware services such as certification downloads to OSFM may be delayed, but will continue.

Our April class schedule will come out today. Please understand this is subject to change at any point. It is imperative that you and your agencies stay connected with information listed below.

As stated in the original message, in the short term, new class requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis. They may not be publicized until closer to the start date and may not be listed on the normal schedule.

Your best source of up-to-date information is to stay connected to www.gaston.edu as well as our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/gastonfire. Additional information and changes in our schedules will be listed there.

If you have been diagnosed with the coronavirus, have been notified you were exposed to coronavirus, or if you are experiencing any symptoms of the coronavirus, including a fever, cough or shortness of breath, you should follow the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for self-monitoring and seeking medical care. You should remain off-campus until cleared by a medical professional.

We will also ask that during classroom sessions you distance yourselves in seating arrangements to avoid close contact. The CDC is recommending that you practice social distancing by maintaining personal distances of 6 feet whenever possible. Practice good hygiene by frequently scrubbing hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.

Continue to stay safe and be diligent. As always, let us know how we can be of assistance.

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