



COMMUNICATION MEMO

Office of the President

2020-03-24

ATTN: **PRESIDENT'S COMMUNICATION**

TO: All Employees, Students, Faculty, Board of Governors

FROM: Asima Vezina (President and Vice-Chancellor)

Tonight, I had the good fortune to speak with our Chancellor, Shirley Horn, and she shared a message of hope, resilience and inspiration that we can all learn from as we collectively deal with the circumstances that are unfolding around us. I hope everyone will take the time to reflect on her caring words of wisdom... which are shared [here](#).

These communications are designed to help keep the Algoma University (AU) community informed about decisions and important updates. Over the past week, our team has been focused on supporting the Algoma University community by:

- Putting in place the people and systems we need for the successful delivery of Spring/Summer academic programming
- Supporting Algoma University students through the transition from face-to-face to remote study
- Transitioning employees/faculty to work from home
- Putting safeguards in place to ensure essential services are available
- Personal outreach to all current and incoming students
- Supporting students remaining in residence
- Developing partnerships and proposals to help Algoma University successfully navigate this challenge

As we work through this unprecedented situation, we remain focussed on two key priorities: (1) ensuring the health and well-being of all members of our community and (2) supporting the academic success of our students. Please review the information below about how we are managing the situation and what we need from you.

Miigwech - Thank you, Asima

Permission to be on Campus:

Due to yesterday's government announcement, effective **12:01 am, Wednesday, March 25th, 2020** until further notice, only those deemed essential may be on campus. Employees deemed essential for current operations have already been notified by Brianne Pringle, Human Resources & Employees Relations Officer. This also applies to the general public and any student not in residence. Please note that government guidelines permit contractors to be on-site, completing work required to ensure safety and reliable operations of infrastructure.

If you require clarification, please contact [Brianne Pringle](#) (Human Resources & Employees Relations Officer).

Student Employees:

Student employees will continue to be paid up to and including April 3rd, with further communication to come. Spring semester student hiring is under review and communication will follow.

Student Success:

- **Advising** - The Student Success Team is available to help! For all needs from course selection, accessibility needs, immigration, etc, you can email advising@algomau.ca and a member of the team will connect with you. Staff are currently reaching out to check on students and assist with Spring Registration.
- **Health Services** - Should you feel that you need additional support (including a referral for online counselling), please contact healthservices@algomau.ca and our team can be available. Watch for supportive coping and strategies videos to care packages in the coming days and weeks.

Campus-Specific Information:

Brampton: Due to the closure of the 24 Queen St. building, the Brampton Campus will be fully closed to all staff, students and faculty until further notice—this includes the Computer Lab (on the 3rd Floor). Brampton students needing support to complete their term should contact advising@algomau.ca

Timmins: Northern College continues to be [closed](#) to all staff and faculty until further notice.

Sault Ste. Marie:

- Residence and Cafeteria (pickup only) remain open to students living on the SSM campus

- Book Store - Closed until further notice
- Campus Security: Security remains in place to ensure the safety and well-being of all campus residence students and essential staff. Security, as always, will be monitoring all aspects of the campus infrastructure to identify and direct any and all emergencies to the proper authorities. They are not on campus to provide access to campus spaces. Should interactions be required, the Security staff will require that proper distancing be observed.
- Access to the Food Pantry:
 - Students living **off-campus** who require access can pick up items beside the Security Desk.
 - Students living **on-campus** who require access can pick up items can at the housing Office in residence.
 - Access is during Housing Office hours of 1-4 pm Monday to Friday
 - Students can also message one of the RAs to access
- The health clinic is closed until further notice. In an effort to maintain service, they will conduct telephone appointments on **Wednesday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** to accommodate your medical needs. Please **DO NOT CALL THE CLINIC**. To book an appointment, email doctor@algomau.ca and include your phone number. You will be sent an appointment date and time with specific instructions prior to the next scheduled clinic.

For anyone experiencing symptoms of fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, you can use the self-screening option at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/#q0> for guidance, or call TELEHEALTH ONTARIO at **1-800-797-0000** and they will advise you how to proceed. Students, faculty and staff are reminded to visit [Algoma's COVID-19 webpage](#) for ongoing updates and related FAQs.

We understand that we are in unprecedented times and that people across the world, the country, the province and the community are being asked to do things differently but this will not last forever. Focus on the big picture, stay centred on your long-term goals and aspirations. This is a small moment in time and we will persevere through. *"It always seems impossible until it's done."* Nelson Mandela

Yours in community,



Asima Vezina
President & Vice-Chancellor, Algoma University