
From Dean Celenza: COVID-19 Update

1 message

Dean Chris Celenza <collegedeans@georgetown.edu>
Reply-To: Dean Chris Celenza <collegedeans@georgetown.edu>
To: pb919@georgetown.edu

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Dear Students:

I am writing following on President DeGioia's [message](#) from earlier today regarding Georgetown's institutional responses to COVID-19. He provided a [link to a webpage](#) dedicated to those responses. Within that page, there is also a list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#). Please read those questions and the provided responses carefully to understand basic operational details.

I wanted to highlight a few things.

First, **we are maximizing social distancing because doing so is what health experts say is best to slow the spread of COVID-19.** Accordingly, we are moving to virtual instruction on Monday, and we are cancelling or limiting large on-campus events. Similarly, to reduce density, we are asking all students who can return to their permanent addresses to do so. Please know that, for those who cannot do so, we will be here for you. Let us know by March 17 if you cannot return to your permanent address by filling out [this form](#).

Second, as to the weeks ahead: **we are moving into a "virtual" learning**

environment. This means that, from now until further notice, there will be no in-class meetings of your courses. The courses, however, will continue. In the college, I and my team have been working with our 38 department chairs and program directors. Together they supervise the work of the college's over 500 faculty members and many others. I have asked our chairs and directors to ensure that they are in touch with their faculty members and all of our instructors, in other words, with everyone who is teaching you this semester. Our chairs and directors have been working tirelessly to do so, and I thank them.

Third, **we need to come together and to recognize frankly that the weeks ahead will represent an educational experience such as none of us has experienced.** It won't be business as usual. At Georgetown we speak often of *cura personalis*, that special aspect of our experience tied to our Jesuit heritage. It means that we see every person as a whole person, one who has an inner life, emotions, strengths, and weaknesses. We are stronger as a community when we recognize our diversity and individuality. As far as how we see you: we care about you in that way, as individuals. We will be patient, we will be flexible when we can be, and we will never forget to listen to you. I ask that you see your faculty members in that way too. This experience will be as new for them as it is for you. As we enter together into our virtual learning environment, let's never forget to care for each other, to show patience, and to recognize each other's common humanity.

There will be more information to come, as I am sure you can imagine. Please make sure to be on the alert for communications from my office and from the university at large. We'll stick together, and we'll help each other in the time ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Dean Celenza

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