Governor Tate Reeves announced the new “Safe Return” order, which will allow all businesses to re-open under the guidelines of Executive Order 1492. The order urges elderly and high-risk individuals to remain safer at home. The order directs that for gatherings where social distancing cannot be assured, indoor activities must consist of no more than 20 people, outdoor activities no more than 50.

In EO1492, All businesses and non-profit entities operating within the State of Mississippi may re-open/remain open subject to the following limitations to minimize person to person interactions and associated risk of transmission of COVID-19.

Please notify the CPSCR office of plans for re-opening traditional classes, including plans for clinicals/internships for students. Below are some of the directives from Governor Tate Reeves for all businesses. You should be following all state directives and include additional protocols from the CDC and MS Department of Health to maintain the health of your students, staff, and faculty during the continued health crisis.

- Businesses and non-profit entities shall make reasonable, good-faith efforts to comply with the Mississippi State Department of Health’s and CDC’s regulations and guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including, but not limited to, social distancing, sending sick employees home and actively encouraging sick employees to stay home, separating and sending home employees who appear to have respiratory illness symptoms, adopting and enforcing regular and proper handwashing and personal hygiene protocols and daily screening of employees and volunteers for COVID-19 related symptoms before beginning shift.
- All employees shall be required to report any symptoms of COVID-19 to their supervisor, and any employee who exhibits any of the symptoms of COVID-19 during their shift shall be sent home immediately and advised to consult with their physician.
- To the extent possible, all common areas where employees or customers are likely to congregate and interact shall be closed, or strict social distancing protocols should be enforced (maintaining a minimum of 6 feet distance between individuals and no gatherings in groups of more than 20 people).

For further information, please visit the following links:
- [https://www.coronavirus.ms.gov/](https://www.coronavirus.ms.gov/)
- [https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html](https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html)
March 16, 2020

In light of uncertainties surrounding the spread and impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19), CPSCR requests that schools provide an update via email when the school determines that a change in the delivery of vocational programs is warranted for their students.

**Should a school need to suspend classes, please provide the following:**

1. Effective date with an estimate of how long classes will be suspended and when the school will re-evaluate.
2. A copy of the notification to students, including the effective date and how the school will communicate the start of classes post-emergency.
3. How the missed time will be made up (e.g., increase the length of term; increase time/day over the period of the remainder of the term, etc.).
4. The school’s plan for providing any information due to the Commission during the suspended term of instruction (i.e., reporting, self-evaluation report, etc.).

**Disruption of Clinical, Practicum, or Externship Experiences**

If a clinical, practicum or externship experience is impacted, please provide the following:

1. Expected timeline for the suspended term of instruction, including re-evaluation of suspension.
2. A copy of the school’s plan to make up time and/or options for students. Options may include, but are not limited to, the following:
   a. Clinical Simulations if available (per programmatic accreditor’s acceptance or recommendation);
   b. The rescheduling of the experience after the classes return to normal; and
   c. Options to move students to sites that are still available and willing to accept students, even with reduced procedures.

**Extended Absences for Students** Should a school have students who need to self-quarantine or need time for recovery, please provide the following:

1. A copy of the school’s plan to accommodate students who may be unable to attend classes due to exposure to COVID-19 or illness from the virus, including Leave of Absence and/or waiver of the attendance policy.
2. How the school will assist students in returning to classes to make up the work missed.