

**To:** Montgomery College Community  
**From:** Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President  
**Subject:** Extension of Remote Operations and Surveys  
**Date:** April 22, 2020

Since Monday Governor Larry Hogan has announced the arrival of 500,000 COVID-19 test kits from South Korea, the acquisition of additional personal protective equipment, and the creation of a contact tracing system called COVID-Link. These are significant steps in the right direction for our state but several other criteria must be met before the governor is confident that Marylanders are adequately protected to resume traditional activities. Additionally, we must keep in mind the most recent Centers for Disease Control (CDC) communications about COVID-19, which warned of a possible, very serious wave of the coronavirus infections this winter.

Due to the continuing stay-at-home order, and at the recommendation of the Montgomery College Coronavirus Advisory Team (CAT), the College will remain in emergency remote working, teaching and learning status until May 18, when it will re-assess. In the meantime, the CAT will be conducting a needs assessment to identify employees with specialized needs related to grading or the conclusion of critical College operations. Only employees who are missing critical items necessary to complete spring semester or begin Summer I remotely will be invited to reply to this questionnaire. A communication from my senior leadership will be sent out tomorrow, Thursday, April 23, explaining these processes in more detail.

In order to better measure the impact of COVID-19 on students, my office will be distributing a separate survey tomorrow. I encourage all students to respond, as it will help MC get a picture of the true impact of COVID-19 on our students' access to food, housing, mental health services, and technology. Policy makers and philanthropists often rely on surveys like these when determining where to allocate resources, so students' participation matters. The instrument is administered by the Hope Center for College, Community and Justice at Temple University, and takes less than ten minutes to complete. I would ask that faculty and staff who are in contact with students remind them to respond.

The College continues to work diligently to clarify questions about when it will receive our federal CARES Act emergency student assistance. We are currently finalizing our plan to distribute the funds to students after reviewing recent guidance from the U.S. Department of Education. Additional information on the plan will be communicated as soon as we have it.