Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a new virus that had not been previously identified in humans.

The virus causes respiratory illness (like the flu) with symptoms such as a cough, fever and in more severe cases, pneumonia. You can protect yourself by practicing good hygiene (such as frequent handwashing), wearing a face mask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before eating or handling food, and avoiding contact with others who have symptoms.

The virus spreads primarily through droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; these droplets can land on surfaces and can be spread through touch. The virus has spread to more than 150 countries and regions across the globe, with millions infected and thousands dying.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease (COVID-19). You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before eating or handling food. You can reduce your risk of infection if you:

- Wash your hands frequently with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
- Cover mouth and nose with tissue, or flexed elbow when coughing or sneezing. Throw used tissues immediately into a closed bin.
- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily (such as tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks).

There is currently no specific antiviral treatment, but certain antiviral medications may be very beneficial early in the course of the disease. If you are sick, except to get medical care.

You can make your home as safe as possible for yourself and your family by:

- Reducing the number of communal spaces.
- Covering infected surfaces and objects with plastic wrap or aluminum foil before removing them from the home.
- Disinfecting surfaces and objects between use.
- Avoiding crowds and non-essential travel.

There is currently no evidence that the new coronavirus spreads through food or pets and animals. You should avoid contact with pets and animals, especially those in groups, at animal markets or in places where there is no control over them. If you come into contact with a pet or animal with symptoms of illness, wash your hands immediately using soap and water. You should also wash your hands with soap and water after pets come inside the home, before and after touching pets, and before eating or handling food. 

You may see in the news that the virus is particularly dangerous to the aged and those with certain medical conditions. Research into the epidemiology and severity of COVID-19 is ongoing. The virus is spread from one person to another through respiratory droplets released when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It is also possible to become infected if you touch your face with your hands while you have been in contact with an infected person when they cough or sneeze, and then touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.

You should wash your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub, and try to avoid touching your face. You should stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.

Spring Break Extension & Online Instruction

- All current online courses will be conducted as scheduled during the week of March 16.
- Spring break will extend to face-to-face students until March 23.
- Face-to-face courses will transition into online classes starting March 23.
- Students should receive instructions to access their online courses on online platforms within the next week. Classes are to be conducted as scheduled during the week of March 23.
- You must make arrangements with your field liaisons and instructors to arrange alternative assignments. If you cannot, please contact both your field liaisons and your field instructors to arrange alternative assignments to complete your internship. You may get approval from your field liaison before getting credits for the alternative assignments.

MSW Field Placement:

- Face-to-face field seminar sections will convert to online platforms beginning March 23. Please look for access instructions from your field liaison.
- Online seminar sections continue as scheduled starting March 16.
- If you are willing and able to go to your field placement site, you may do so. If you cannot, please contact both your field liaisons and your field instructors to arrange alternative assignments to complete your internship. You may get approval from your field liaison before getting credits for the alternative assignments.

MSW Advising:

- All academic advising appointments will be done via phone or Microsoft Teams.
- Students who have scheduled academic advising appointments will continue as planned.
- Students who have been scheduled for academic advising appointments will receive a Teams invitation for their virtual meeting time.

MSW Field Placement:

- MSW Field Placement:
  - All current online courses will be conducted as scheduled during the week of March 16.
  - Spring break will extend to face-to-face students until March 23.
  - Face-to-face courses will transition into online classes starting March 23.
  - Students should receive instructions to access their online courses on online platforms within the next week. Classes are to be conducted as scheduled during the week of March 23.
  - You must make arrangements with your field liaisons and instructors to arrange alternative assignments. If you cannot, please contact both your field liaisons and your field instructors to arrange alternative assignments to complete your internship. You may get approval from your field liaison before getting credits for the alternative assignments.

For All Students - (Online and Face to Face)

- Normal campus operations for faculty and staff: Most SSW faculty and staff will continue as planned. If you cannot, please contact both your field liaisons and your field instructors to arrange alternative assignments to complete your internship. You may get approval from your field liaison before getting credits for the alternative assignments.

For Students in at least one course - (Face to Face)

- If Tiara Thomas was your advisor, she is no longer with the School of Social Work. Your current advisor will be Ms. Patricia Green until a new advisor is appointed.

For Students in all courses - (Face to Face)

- All academic advising appointments will be done via phone or Microsoft Teams. Students who have scheduled academic advising appointments will receive a Teams invitation for their virtual meeting time.

For Students in all courses - (Online)

- All current online courses will be conducted as scheduled during the week of March 16.
- Spring break will extend to face-to-face students until March 23.
- Face-to-face courses will transition into online classes starting March 23.
- Students should receive instructions to access their online courses on online platforms within the next week. Classes are to be conducted as scheduled during the week of March 23.
- You must make arrangements with your field liaisons and instructors to arrange alternative assignments. If you cannot, please contact both your field liaisons and your field instructors to arrange alternative assignments to complete your internship. You may get approval from your field liaison before getting credits for the alternative assignments.

For Students in all courses - (Online and Face to Face)

- Normal campus operations for faculty and staff: Most SSW faculty and staff will continue as planned. If you cannot, please contact both your field liaisons and your field instructors to arrange alternative assignments to complete your internship. You may get approval from your field liaison before getting credits for the alternative assignments.

For Students in all courses - (Face to Face)

- All academic advising appointments will be done via phone or Microsoft Teams. Students who have scheduled academic advising appointments will receive a Teams invitation for their virtual meeting time.

For Students in all courses - (Online)

- All current online courses will be conducted as scheduled during the week of March 16.
- Spring break will extend to face-to-face students until March 23.
- Face-to-face courses will transition into online classes starting March 23.
- Students should receive instructions to access their online courses on online platforms within the next week. Classes are to be conducted as scheduled during the week of March 23.
- You must make arrangements with your field liaisons and instructors to arrange alternative assignments. If you cannot, please contact both your field liaisons and your field instructors to arrange alternative assignments to complete your internship. You may get approval from your field liaison before getting credits for the alternative assignments.