

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions for Students

(as of March 16, 2020)

How will I know if my classes will be available remotely?

Beginning March 30, the vast majority of our courses will be taught via remote delivery and most students will not need to return to campus immediately after spring break.

There will be some isolated exceptions – courses that absolutely require specific equipment, clinical work or software that is only available on campus – but we will move to remote delivery in every instance possible. In these cases, faculty will work with their division chairs and the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs to determine allowable exceptions to remote delivery on a case-by-case basis.

In all cases, steps will be taken to promote health and safety during in-person instruction.

More details regarding remote delivery of FVCC classes will be sent later this week via college email or visit www.fvcc.edu/coronavirus for more information.

What if my courses are delivered remotely, but I want to return to campus?

Students are welcome to return to campus if they so choose. Founders Hall, Eagle's Nest, library, computer labs, student health clinic, and other student services will remain open.

What if my classes are not offered remotely?

Some students whose courses require equipment, clinical work or software that is only available on campus will need to return to campus after spring break.

Faculty have been asked to accommodate, to the extent possible, students who are unable to attend courses that retain an in-person modality.

How will I be able to access my classes if I do not have a computer or internet access?

The computer labs and library will remain open when FVCC transitions to remote delivery.

Additionally, beginning March 16, Charter will offer free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi access for 60 days to households with K-12 and/or college students who do not already

have a Spectrum broadband subscription at any service level up to 100 Mbps. To enroll, call 1-844-488-8395. Installation fees will be waived for new student households.

What happens if I miss class because I'm sick?

Please stay home if you are sick.

Faculty have been advised to work with students who miss classes because of illness, childcare disruptions or to care for a sick family member by offering makeup exams, alternate assignments or alternate weighting of missed work.

What if I have to miss class because of a daycare or K-12 school closures?

If you are impacted by a daycare or K-12 school closure, please work with your faculty members to make arrangements for missing any in-person classes.

Faculty have been advised of disruptions for students caused by COVID-19 such as daycare or K-12 school closures. Faculty have been asked to work with students by offering makeup exams, alternate assignments, or alternate weighting of missed work.

What if I am not feeling well?

If you are not feeling well, please stay home. Contact your healthcare provider, **Flathead County Health Center [(406)751-8110 during regular business hours or (406)756-2900 after hours, weekends and holidays) or the Student Health Clinic (406)756-4331]**, for screening.

Due to COVID-19, professors are being advised to not penalize absences if you are feeling ill. However, please reach out to your instructor right away and let them know of your situation. It will be important for you to keep up with your studies. Your instructor can work with you individually to decide what is the best plan for you to continue your coursework.

I'm concerned about missing class, if I am ill, quarantined or taking care of a family member who is ill. What do I do?

Beginning March 30 and extending through the end of spring semester, FVCC is adjusting its protocols regarding student absences.

Students are encouraged to stay home if they are sick or have to complete a 14-day quarantine, especially if they think they may have an infectious disease.

Students who must miss class due to illness or quarantine must contact their course instructors via phone or email as soon as possible to let them know. There is no need for a medical note.

Students are also responsible for completing any work they miss due to absence, including assignments, quizzes, tests and exams. And they are responsible for communicating with their instructors using the means established by their instructors, such as D2L, email or text message.

Will I need to provide proof that I consulted a medical professional regarding possible exposure to COVID-19 in order to miss class under self-quarantine?

No, FVCC will not require proof that a student has consulted a medical professional about possible exposure to COVID-19.

What should I do about my spring break plans?

Students are urged to consider their own personal health as well as the health of those around them in making decisions about spring break plans. The Montana University System has established helpful [guidelines for spring break travel](#).

Please see the CDC's guidance on assessing whether to cancel or postpone a trip. Due to the fast-changing nature of the COVID-19 outbreak, travel restrictions may be imposed or lifted at any time, for any area or country. Check the status of your destination frequently at:

- [US Department of State](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

If I travel within the U.S. for spring break, including to areas where COVID-19 cases have been reported, will I be quarantined?

At this time, there are no domestic travel restrictions or quarantine requirements, but the situation can change rapidly. The most up-to-date information is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html.

With the transition to remote delivery, we expect many students who will choose not to return to campus. However, there are a limited number of courses that require students to be present.

Therefore, if you do plan to return, please make time to carefully review your Eagle Mail account and familiarize yourself with the precautions below before returning to campus:

- If you believe you were in contact with someone who has confirmed COVID-19 or who is being tested for COVID-19, please contact the Flathead County Health Department at (406)751-8110 to learn about possible precautions before returning to campus.

- If you are returning from a country with a Center for Disease Control Travel Health Notice Level 3 (this currently includes China, South Korea, Iran, and all of Europe), please contact the Flathead County Health Department at (406)751-8110 to learn about possible precautions before returning to campus.
- Please note that the US Department of State has issued a Level 3: Reconsider Non-Essential Travel Advisory for all global travel.
- Anyone who visited an area affected by COVID-19 and who feels sick with fever, cough or difficulty breathing within 14 days of their return is asked to call their healthcare provider, Flathead County Health Center [(406)751-8110), or the Student Health Clinic (406)756-4331] immediately.
 - Please call the clinic first to make arrangements to be seen without exposing others.
 - Avoid contact with others and stay home.

Will Founders Hall remain open over spring break?

Yes, Founders Hall and all FVCC offices will remain open during spring break.

Will Founders Hall, the computer labs, the library, and college offices remain open when FVCC transitions to remote delivery classes on March 30?

At this time, Founders Hall, the computer labs, the library, and all college offices will continue to remain.

Where can I go, if I am in need of food, toilet paper and cleaning supplies?

The food pantry will be open by appointment from March 16-27. Stop by the Student Engagement Office (BH 155) with your student ID and current class schedule to access the food pantry.

If I become too ill to complete my class, may I earn an incomplete grade?

We will continue to follow our regular process to manage requests for incomplete grades.

An incomplete (“I”) grade is given when, in the opinion of the instructor, there is strong probability the student can complete the course without retaking it. In all cases, the “I” grade is given at the discretion of the instructor within the following guidelines:

- The student is in attendance and doing passing work up to three weeks before the end of the semester;
- The student is unable to complete the requirements of the course on time because of extenuating circumstances, i.e., illness, death or illness in the immediate family, family emergencies, or military orders;

- The instructor sets the conditions for the completion of the coursework including the time period within which the work must be made up;
- The instructor prepares an “I” Grade Authorization form which specifies the coursework that must be made up as well as the time period within which the work must be completed. A copy of this form must be attached to the instructor’s grade roster and submitted to the Admissions and Registration Office;
- An “I” grade shall be made up within 12 months from the end of semester the “I” grade was assigned unless the instructor sets a shorter time period.
- An “I” grade converts to a failure (“F”) if it is not made up by the due date.
- The “I” (incomplete) must be completed/made up through the instructor who assigned the “I” grade; the instructor changes the grade with the Grade Change Form which must be submitted to the Admissions and Registration Office.

Is it too late to withdraw from FVCC?

The last day to drop a class is indicated on the [academic calendar](#). Student can withdraw from short or late starting courses until the 75% point of the course. Students who wish to drop a class without the class appearing on their transcripts are required to drop the class during the first three weeks of the semester. (The above information applies to classes that meet the full length of fall and spring semesters.) Failure to attend class DOES NOT constitute withdrawal.

In order to prevent dropped short- or late-starting classes from appearing on students’ transcripts, students are required to drop the class during its refund period. (See [refund schedule](#).)

No refunds will be granted for full-length semester classes dropped after the second week of the semester. (See [refund schedule](#).)

What is FVCC is doing to keep the campus clean?

Although it is not possible for custodial staff to disinfect hard surfaces or clean high traffic areas on an hourly basis, the custodial staff has increased the frequency of deep cleaning in high traffic areas. Additionally, disinfectant wipes are available for faculty, staff, and student use in classrooms, meeting rooms, and other high traffic areas including Founders Hall.

How can I avoid becoming sick?

There currently is no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness is to avoiding being exposed. The CDC recommends the following common sense actions that help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases:

- Avoid close contact with sick people
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth

- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and then immediately throw the tissue in the trash
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces with a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. It's especially important to do so after using the bathroom, before eating and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water aren't readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. The [CDC's guide on handwashing](#) can be found online.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

- Patients with COVID-19 have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness. The following symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure, based on prior observed cases:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath