



Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges

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Dear ACCSC Member School:

March 5, 2020

ACCSC is closely monitoring and assessing the situation regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Commission understands the impact that the spread of such a virus can have on educational institutions and the close quarters shared by students in classrooms and training spaces. ACCSC's first and foremost concern revolves around public health and public safety and, as such, is open to working with schools to find flexible and creative solutions as may be warranted. Know too that because of this flexibility, the guidance provided here is fluid and subject to change as circumstances warrant.

Last year, ACCSC issued a new standard around emergency preparedness asking institutions to identify emergency scenarios and to establish concordant actions plans. The current Coronavirus infection spread is exactly the kind of situation that requires this type of emergency preparedness planning. The Commission also provided guidance that a school's plan should address a situation to "scale" and as such the Commission understands that schools will "plan" and "act" differently as circumstances change.

At this time ACCSC is continuing to operate as normal, but understands that schools, particularly those located in areas where COVID-19 has spread, may need to make substantive changes to the manner in which training is offered or may need to temporarily cease operations. As these kinds of changes may come to bear, the Commission asks that schools contact the ACCSC staff to discuss school safety needs and the concordant solutions. Please do not start making changes such as offering virtual classes or ceasing operations for example, without first contacting ACCSC to let the Commission know the school's situation and plan. Having said that, the Commission is open to a range of flexible and creative solutions that support schools, students, and public health and safety. This guidance may change in the future if circumstances like quarantines become a regular practice; but for now, the Commission is asking for open and direct communication to discuss individual school needs.

Since ACCSC is continuing to operate as normal until further notice, this also means that the Commission will continue conducting on-site evaluations. If your school is scheduled for an on-site evaluation, please remain in close contact with your assigned ACCSC staff member and communicate promptly any changes that might affect the success of the evaluation or potentially compromise the health of visiting team members. Schools should also be prepared that 1) volunteers may be substituted on short notice by ACCSC depending on arising situations and 2) a scheduled evaluation may need to be cancelled on short notice by ACCSC if the Commission is unable to secure volunteers or if travel is restricted.

We will provide information and updates as it relates to ACCSC operations and expectations as more is understood about COVID-19 and appropriate safeguarding strategies are outlined. As with all public health situations, ACCSC primarily relies on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the US Department of Health and Human Services, and the US Department of Education for the best information and productive strategies. Some resources that schools may find useful regarding COVID-19 include the following:

- <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>
- https://www.careereducationreview.net/2020/03/novel-coronavirus-2019_-the-comprehensive-guide-to-covid-19/

Sincerely,

Executive Director