

Wyoming Community College Commission

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 26, 2020

The Wyoming Community College Commission is actively monitoring rapidly developing events related to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak. We continue to work closely with Governor Gordon's Office, The Wyoming Department of Homeland Security, and the Wyoming Department of Health. Out of significant sense of caution and concern for the welfare of students, faculty, staff, and the communities we serve, all necessary information is quickly relayed to Wyoming's seven community colleges. Below is an update, and link, detailing proactive steps currently underway at each institution to limit the potential spread of infection. Visit the campus websites listed for the most current information.

Casper College – <https://www.caspercollege.edu/coronavirus/>

- Spring break has been extended by one week, through Sunday, March 29.
- The campus is closed the next 3 Mondays; 16, 23, and 30 March, but open Tuesday – Friday of those weeks.
- Classes will resume Tuesday, March 31 2020, via remote instruction or as otherwise communicated by instructors.
- Throughout the break, all college and student services will remain available.
- Employees are expected to report to work as normal.
- The college is assessing all events and is discouraging hosting or attending nonessential large gatherings.

Central Wyoming College – www.cwc.edu/coronavirus.

- Graduation ceremonies postponed, please press link above for more information.
- CWC's spring break is rescheduled to be March 14 through March 29 2020. The campus will physically close during this time but virtual services will continue.
- Campus housing will remain open over the break for on-campus students.
- Any student traveling to a Warning Level 3 country should stay away from campus and self-isolate for 14 days following their return.

Eastern Wyoming College - <https://ewc.wy.edu/alerts/>

- Students – this is your second day of class and don't forget, your instructors are available to answer any questions and support you as you complete the semester.
- As of current guidance from the Department of Education, full withdrawals may still result in the student owing back a portion of the federal aid students received during the term. Students should contact financial aid at 307.532.8224 or financialaid@ewc.wy.edu BEFORE withdrawing to determine any impact to their aid eligibility.
- Eastern Wyoming College has announced that the College is officially closed and will reopen on April 6th. Employees will still be available to students during this time and will be working from home. Please continue to email or call EWC employees <https://ewc.wy.edu/directory/> if you have questions or need assistance.
- Update from the Library: All online resources are still available 24/7 for faculty and students. All checkouts have been extended to May 5th. Patrons that have items to return may do so by using the exterior book drop.
- For student employees funded either through the Federal Work-Study program or institutional student employment, EWC will continue to pay wages for hours the student was scheduled to work or would normally have worked for as long as the college is closed or for students whose classes are transitioned online. Students need to work closely with their supervisor(s) to record and approve time online as usual. Students are NOT expected to be on campus to fulfill any student employment obligations. Please contact Holly West at Holly.West@ewc.wy.edu with questions.
- The EWC Lancer Livestock Sale is being held digitally this year and is currently underway through Tuesday evening. Visit the EWC Ag Department's Facebook page for further details.
- Students will hear from instructors by Friday morning, March 20, 2020 about the status of classes. Instructors will contact students through Canvas or at the student's EWC email account.
- The Follett bookstore is working on specific announcements regarding textbook issues. Please watch for more specific details as they become available.
- EWC employees are contacting all students directly to assess student needs. Please expect a phone call or message. If you do not receive a direct call, please contact the Student Services office at 307.532.8230.
- Many students who live in the Residence Halls have questions. We hear you and are trying to develop a definitive plan in regard to housing through the end of the semester.
- Residence Hall students should have received an email from Ms. Jolley explaining the process to sign up for a time to move out of the residence halls. Please contact her directly to accomplish this task. The halls will be deep cleaned from top to bottom. Please communicate directly with Ms. Jolley in regard to housing.
- Eastern Wyoming College has partnered with Wyoming 4-H to move the contest they had scheduled for April 4 to a virtual platform, so youth can still participate from home, while practicing social distancing as recommended in response to the coronavirus. Daily learning sessions have been added and will run March 23 - April 3, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. each day via zoom. These sessions will highlight the topics that will be included in the

contest which will be held April 4-5, 2020. Youth can connect to the learning sessions by going to: <http://bit.ly/Wyoming4-H>. Come join in the fun! For questions contact Georgia Younglove at 307-799-5419 or Dawn Sanchez 307-799-8780 or email dawns@uwyo.edu.

- Concurrent and Dual enrollment students can expect to receive a phone call from an EWC official or the Outreach Coordinator in your area to touch base with you on your needs in relation to the completion of your class or classes.
- The Black and Gold Bash scheduled for April 18th has been postponed to a later date.
- College officials will evaluate prorated refunds of room and board charges on a case-by-case basis based on the individual student's financial aid package.

Laramie County Community College - <http://www.lccc.wy.edu/virus-information.aspx>

- Spring break for students extended until Tuesday, March 31.
- All physical activities on campus are cancelled; all employees are directed to work from home.
- Classes will resume online/virtually April 1 through May 15.
- Suspending institutionally sponsored travel through May 15.
- Gatherings of 20 or more faculty are highly discouraged.
- All events where anticipated attendance exceeds 100 individuals is prohibited.

Northwest College - <https://nwc.edu/covid-19/>

- Spring break is now extended through April 3 for all students. Classes will resume Monday, April 6.
- Academic coursework will continue in alternative formats so unimpeded education as possible.
- Residence halls are currently closed. Accommodations will be made for students with extenuating circumstances who need to stay. We are offering students prorated refunds for residence hall charges and meal plans.
- Employees are expected to report to work March 16 to receive further instructions.
- Employees or students who have traveled by ship or airplane are asked to self-isolate for 14 days.
- All on and offsite college travel, events, and conferences through May 11 are canceled.

Northern Wyoming Community College District (Sheridan and Gillette College) – <https://www.sheridan.edu/updates/>

- Spring break has been extended through April 5, 2020. All classes and activities from March 13 through April 5 are cancelled.
- All college-sponsored travel, domestic and international, has been canceled until further notice.

Western Wyoming Community College - https://www.westernwyoming.edu/_resources/coronavirus.php

- In person classes are canceled for the remainder of the spring semester, all courses will be converted to virtual delivery.
- All faculty and staff will work from home.

- Students who live on campus are being asked to check out/move out of their rooms for the remainder of the school year. Refunds will be given for 50% of the prepaid cost. If circumstances prohibit, exceptions may be granted.

University of Wyoming - <https://www.uwyo.edu/shser/corona-virus.html>

OTHER RESOURCES:

Guidance from the CDC for Institutions of Higher Education - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html>

Office of Postsecondary Education – Federal Student Aid - <https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/030520Guidance4interruptionsrelated2CoronavirusCOVID19>

Wyoming Office of Homeland Security - <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=42fd398fa8f449fb930f2d3755c5a1bb>

Wyoming Department of Health - <https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/infectious-disease-epidemiology-unit/disease/novel-coronavirus/>

State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) Association - <https://sheeo.org/sheeo-covid-19-resources/>

Chairman Pai from the FCC has launched an initiative called “Keep America Connected” during the COVID 19 event. This called on all broadband and telephone providers to make and continue to make the internet available to all Americans. To read the details, click [here](#).

Below is a list, from that document, of the providers that have made a commitment to provide up to 60 days of internet access as no charge to those in need. Not all from the list are available in Wyoming. Here are some that I have found in Wyoming that are making the commitment.

Charter/Spectrum - <https://corporate.charter.com/newsroom/charter-to-offer-free-access-to-spectrum-broadband-and-wifi-for-60-days-for-new-K12-and-college-student-households-and-more>

Comcast - <https://corporate.comcast.com/covid-19>

LR Communications (Formerly NGL Connection) - <https://www.facebook.com/nglconnection/posts/2971361449550880>

CenturyLink - <http://news.centurylink.com/covid-19>

Comprehensive list:

ACIRA – Powered by Farmers Mutual Telephone Company & Federated Telephone, Allstream Business US, AlticeUSA, Antietam Broadband, Atlantic Broadband, AT&T, BBT, BOYCOM Vision, Burlington Telecom, Cable One, Central Arkansas Telephone Cooperative, CenturyLink,

Charter, Cincinnati Bell, Citizens Connected, Comcast, Consolidated Communications, Cox Communications, Digital West, East Ascension Telephone Company, Education Networks of America, Emery Telecom, Farmers Telecommunications Cooperative, FirstLight, Frontier, Google Fiber, Grande Communications, Granite Telecommunications, Great Plains Communications, GWI, Hiawatha Broadband, Hill Country, IdeaTek Telcom, Inteliquent, Lafourche Telephone Company, Lakeland Communications, Long Lines Broadband, Mammoth Networks/Visionary Broadband, Mediacom, MetTel, Nex-Tech, Ninestar Connect, Northwest Fiber, Orbitel Communications, Pioneer Communications, Premier Communications, Range Telephone Cooperative, RCN, Reserve Telephone Company, Sacred Wind Communications, Shawnee Communications, Socket Telecom, Sonic, Sprint, Starry, TDS Telecom, TelNet Worldwide, T-Mobile, TracFone Wireless, Uniti Fiber, US Cellular, Vast Broadband, Verizon, Vyve Broadband Investments, Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom, Wave Broadband, West Telecom Services, Windstream, and ZenFi Networks. And the trade associations ACA Connects, Competitive Carriers of America, CTIA, INCOMPAS, NCTA—The Internet and Television Association, NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association, USTelecom, and WISPA

Att – <https://about.att.com/pages/COVID-19.html> Specifically see section “Supporting Customers and Communities”

Verizon Wireless – <https://www.verizon.com/about/news/our-response-coronavirus>

Sprint - <https://newsroom.sprint.com/covid-19-updates-sprint-responds.htm> - Specifically March 13th, 2020 news release

T-mobile - <https://www.t-mobile.com/news/t-mobile-update-on-covid-19-response> - Specifically March 13th, 2020 news release

Here is a list of Wyoming providers that I am working to find out if they are making this commitment.

Visionary – <https://www.vcn.com/> nothing found

Wyoming.com – <http://www.wyoming.com/pid/58/Press-Room.aspx> nothing found

RT Com - <https://www.rtcom.net/covid-19-update/> - nothing found

TCT - <https://www.tct.net/residential-services/internet> - nothing found

All West communications - <https://www.allwest.com/> - nothing found

FiberPipe - <http://www.shr.fiberpipe.net/> - nothing found

Wyoming 2-1-1 and the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) are partnering to provide a public telephone helpline for COVID-19 questions and information.

Wyoming 2-1-1 is a statewide helpline which provides free, confidential information and referrals to health and human services. By dialing 2-1-1 from anywhere in the state of Wyoming, people are linked to information about COVID-19 as well as local resources, from both government and nonprofit agencies.

2-1-1 is available Monday through Friday, 8:00 [a.m.to](#) 6:00 p.m. Service is available statewide by dialing 2-1-1 or 888-425-7138 during normal business hours. Callers requesting information outside standard business hours may leave a voicemail message and will receive a follow-up call the next business day.

Wyoming 2-1-1 also connects callers to other health and human services in their community. Many of these resources may also be needed by Wyoming residents at this time.

CDC COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/children-faq.html>

Wyoming Department of Health COVID-19 website: <https://health.wyo.gov/>

Questions can also be emailed to wdh-covid-19@wyo.gov.

As we get more information we will pass it along.