



ELMIRA COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 23, 2020

Dear EC community,

Earlier this week the College received approval from the Chemung County Health Department to transition students and employees back to campus. However, on Wednesday, October 21, Governor Cuomo identified parts of the City of Elmira, including the Elmira College campus, as being within a micro-cluster Orange Zone. While it had been our intent to bring residential students back to campus and move to in-person classes, we are no longer able to offer that option. As long as the area remains in an Orange Zone, the College is not permitted to return to in-person classes. This is a Health Department mandate.

The number of positive cases in Chemung County continues to rise, meaning the area could move to a Red Zone in the coming days. If that happens, it would be 10 days before the area could potentially transition to Orange and another 10 days before transitioning to Yellow. The College must fall within a Yellow Zone, or no zone, before in-person classes would be permitted.

After consulting with County Health officials and the head of the local hospital system, and in order to protect our campus community, classes will remain online for the remainder of Term I.

Students, what this means for you:

- **Residential students currently on campus, will remain on campus.**
 - Operations on campus will remain as they are for students currently here. Nursing students completing clinicals will continue with their schedule, per host protocols.
 - Students are not permitted to go home for an overnight or weekend and return to campus as this increases the chance of spreading the virus – to either your hometown community or back to the campus community. If you choose to leave, it will be for the remainder of the Term, and your card access will be disabled.
 - COVID-19 Guidelines remain in effect for all students, and any student who violates these guidelines is subject to the COVID-19 Sanctions posted on [MyEC](#).
 - Watch your email for information on upcoming virtual and small-group activities.
- **Residential students currently at home/off campus, shall remain home/off campus.**
 - If you need to retrieve items from your residence hall for the holiday break, you will be assigned a time to retrieve belongings at the conclusion of Term I in December. Additional information will be shared by the Office of Residence Life closer to the end of the Term. You may request to have essential items (textbooks, medications) mailed to you. Non-essential items will be retrieved in December.
 - Continue to watch your email for information on virtual activities and offerings. Campus

services previously offered virtually will continue to be offered virtually.

- **Commuter students should continue with classes online, from home.**
 - Campus services previously offered virtually will continue to be offered virtually.
- **Room and Board Fees:** Students were discouraged from leaving campus when the College moved to online in late September, and as such, students who chose to leave will not receive a refund. As a nonprofit college, the cost of providing academic courses and the full range of services exceeds what we charge to students in tuition and fees. The cost of course delivery is not decreased when courses are offered online. In fact, it generally costs more to do online classes due to required investments in technology. Faculty do not get paid less for teaching online. They still have to do the same amount of work, if not more. Any cost savings that might come from not “turning on the lights” is very small given campus facilities must be maintained year-round. Residence Life has remained fully staffed and the dining hall has continued to serve our on-campus students. In addition, most services available to students on campus are also available for students virtually, including student activities programming, counseling, consultations with the Clarke Health Center, tutoring, and most library services.

Employees, what this means for you:

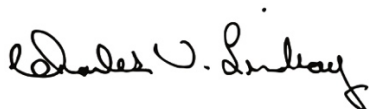
- Non-essential employees will work remotely as long as the College remains within the Orange Zone. Employees should contact their supervisor with any questions.
- When/if the College moves to a Yellow Zone, employees should return to on-campus work. Additional details will be shared with employees.

I am extremely disappointed to share this news. The continuation of online classes is mandated by New York State and Chemung County and is out of the College’s control. EC guidelines related to the Governor’s zones is attached to this email.

I do want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of staff and students currently on campus. The past few weeks have been challenging, but we were able to transition students through the isolation/quarantine process and have had zero cases reported on campus over the past 14 days.

I encourage everyone to exercise caution, physical distancing, and self-monitoring as it relates to personal travel, family circumstances, and health. The situation is ever-evolving, and I encourage you to continue to check your email and [MyEC](#) for updates.

Sincerely,



Charles Lindsay, PhD
President