

Never underestimate the human heart

My great niece cried the other day.

She couldn't understand why she couldn't get down from her parents' car and give grandma a hug like she had hundreds of times before. The world for her and all of us has changed.

The world we're used to, where we can shake someone's hands, or be in a crowded area, has stopped—for now.

Although it's a different time at this point, we shouldn't be too sad—it's better for us to hope and reflect on a brighter future. Hope that we can get back to normalcy soon and reflect, that when we do, that we are all better for it. When I talk about all, I don't mean just become a better town, city, state or nation, but become better as a world. We are all in this together.

The COVID-19 (coronavirus) doesn't discriminate. It really doesn't care what culture or nation we come from. But all of us have something that COVID-19 doesn't have, and that's a human heart.

We can't forget the courage of the thousands of individuals that are working in the health care field. They go to work every day in hopes of saving lives, perhaps with less regard than they should for theirs. We must also remember those in other fields who are lending a hand one way or another during these trying times, making things better for someone else. We certainly can't forget those who have lost their jobs. It was nice to see our government working together to provide assistance. May they all get back to work soon.

How about moms, dads or guardians who have made their TV rooms into classrooms as many school children have been asked to stay and study at home?

Lastly, we can't forget the victims of COVID-19 and their families, especially those who died and those who are fighting for their lives.

Perhaps during this time, we can search within our own hearts and discover something that helps us become better people. Never underestimate the human heart. Even though we can't physically see it, the human heart is capable of doing great things especially when it comes down to love and inspiration in helping those most in need during moments of crisis. Maybe we can care—care for one another genuinely as life is meant to be.

Keep in mind that we all have to be more careful than ever before. Most of us have heard the precautions we have to take, such as wash our hands often, don't touch our face and stay home whenever possible. But there are things we can do to make things better for our neighbor and families. For instance, spend time on the phone with one of our elderly family members that may be alone. We may all be surprised what an extra five minutes of a kind conversation can do for someone.

How about making sure those around us have enough food or other important items? It probably doesn't do us any good to have too much of something, knowing that others may need a minimal amount to survive.

We all have certain gifts. How we use them is what is important.

I'm confident we will be a better world very soon.

My great niece is confused right now. But that confusion will turn into joy the day she is able to hug her grandma again.

By Jesse Gallegos
***A Different
Perspective***



Luna's Joe Maestas works on applying a wax sealing to the floor of a cosmetology classroom. While the crew has focused on sanitizing and disinfecting buildings, it's also been an opportune time to take on other projects around campus.

Luna guards vs. outbreak

As with most entities, the global impact of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic has been felt locally at Luna Community College this month.

Disregarding borders, the virus has spread internationally from its first reported cases this past winter in Wuhan, China, to more than 693,000 worldwide, including more than 140,000 in the U.S. Thousands of deaths related to the virus, including more than 2,400 in the U.S., have been reported.

The first New Mexico case was confirmed on March 11, the eve of Luna's scheduled spring break.

By the time Luna students returned from their extended break on Monday, March 23, the New

Mexico count was up to 83 cases and counting, and Luna had made a number of changes, joining in efforts to mitigate the impact of the virus. As of Monday morning, there were 237 confirmed cases in New Mexico.

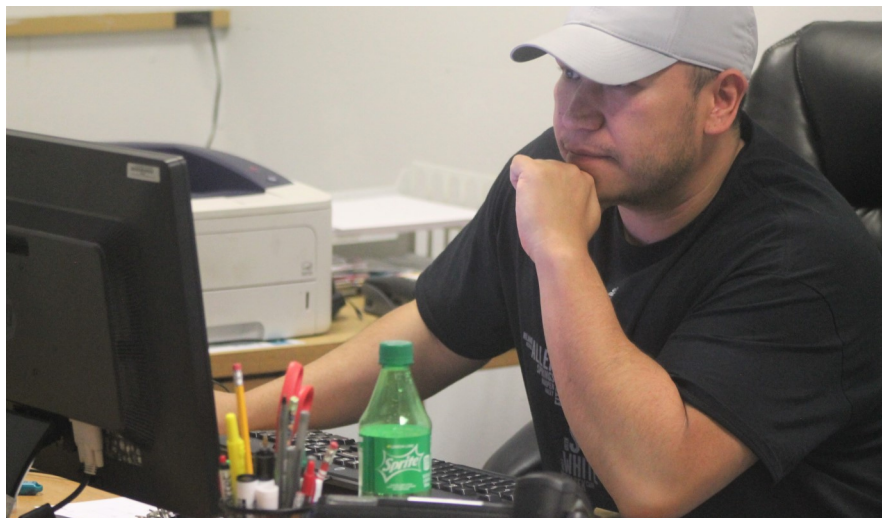
An overview:

- In an effort to help keep students safe and reduce on-campus traffic, the college worked to transition many of its face-to-face classes to an online, distance education model. To make this happen, Luna officials extended spring break and closed its campuses to the public until further notice. For some classes, those with at least some online component, the move was relatively simple. For others, it required training of faculty or other

accommodations. And for those courses for which online transition was not possible, students were given other alternatives — opportunity to make up the work or to take incompletes for the semester grades. Initially, making the move to an online schedule necessitated the extension of spring break for an additional week, although some classes were able to resume earlier. (See related story, Page 5.)

- Also in an effort to reduce on-campus traffic, the majority of Luna employees have been allowed to work from home. Services are accessible via phone, e-mail and other electronic means. On March 24, the college transitioned to a virtual campus, with employees either

Raymond Varela, who coordinates the Academic Center for Excellence, connects with tutors and students from his office computer. ACE has initiated an online tutoring service to coincide with Luna's move to distance education and online classes.



working from home or otherwise away from campus.

- The Academic Center for Excellence has likewise transitioned to online tutoring services, with availability for those online courses as well as during weekday hours.

- Luna's facilities crew members worked to sanitize the campus, and restricted traffic flow in buildings has helped to preserve disinfected areas.

- A number of events planned to be held on campus — including the spring commencement ceremony in May — have been either cancelled or postponed indefinitely. This coincides with the issuing of state orders to limit public gatherings to fewer than five people. Possible rescheduling of graduation and other events will be handled on a case-by-case basis as conditions permit. Deadlines to apply for spring and summer graduation, ordering of regalia and announcements have

also been postponed. The awarding of degrees, however, will proceed as normal. (See related story, Page 6.)

Among the other events that have been cancelled or postponed: a planned Census Day promotion on April 1, an early childhood education two-day training event, and an LCC Board of Trustees meet-and-greet in Mora, the second of a series.

- Luna's baseball and softball seasons, which had been in full swing when the COVID-19 outbreak first took hold, were suspended and then cancelled altogether by the National Junior College Athletic Association. The national organization's decision to shutter spring athletics mirrored that of the NCAA and professional leagues in various sports. For certain student-athletes whose seasons had not passed the 60 percent completion threshold, the year of eligibility was preserved. For the Rough Rider players and coaches, it

was a bittersweet and abrupt end to the season, as both squads had been demonstrating improvement and reeling off some wins.

- As part of President Rolando Rael's plan, approved by the LCC Board of Trustees in an emergency meeting on March 17, employees will be able to donate sick leave to fellow employees who require it if it's in connection with the outbreak.

- Luna has assisted in public information and education as well, posting basic COVID-19 facts, guidelines and recommendations from the national Centers for Disease Control and state Department of Health on its website and social media. "Social distancing is the only real weapon we have to slow the spread," said Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham in a recent news conference announcing stringent "stay-at-home" instructions.

College Scorecard:

The U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard has the most reliable data on college costs, graduation and post-college earnings. Visit collegescorecard.ed.gov

Don't just pass all your classes this spring.

ACE them.



As COVID-19 wreaks havoc, ACE is still here to assist in any way. As Luna's classes switch to an online platform, tutors will also be switching to online services. We will be attending online classes with students and providing tutoring hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. We will be sending out a detailed schedule and instructions on how to receive tutoring from us. We look forward to assisting everyone in this challenging time. Contact Raymond Varela, ACE manager, at 505-454-5306 or rvarela@luna.edu, for more information.



NOW ONLINE!

Classes move to distance ed

Luna Community College has transitioned many of its classes to distance education delivery and has closed its campuses to students and the public until further notice as it addresses the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak.

The Luna Board of Trustees held an emergency meeting at the college recently addressing the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak and the safety of Luna students, staff and faculty. Aside from its main campus in Las Vegas, Luna has satellite campuses in Santa Rosa and Springer and a site in Mora.

Luna also extended spring break for students through Friday, March 20. All classes that could be transferred to distance education did so beginning on Monday, March 23.

Students who have questions are encouraged to contact their instructors via phone or e-mail. The college's main phone number is 1-800-588-7232, and a full campus directory is available at luna.edu/directory.

Any student who does not have

the capability to resume course(s) via distance education may have the option to receive incomplete grades. Students who receive incompletes will have the opportunity to finish the coursework at a later date per the institutional policy in the college catalog (pages 46-47). Students may also select to withdraw from the course(s) by contacting the Office of the Registrar via their LCC student e-mail at registrar@luna.edu. Students considering either option should first consult with their instructor(s). A withdrawal from courses or the semester may affect a student's financial aid eligibility.

Part of the college's emergency plan is also to have employees work from home if feasible to reduce the foot traffic on its campuses. Many offices are opened remotely with a minimal staff and are available via phone or e-mail.

In addition, the college announced closings of the Early Childhood Daycare and the Gerald Ortega Wellness Center. All college-sponsored or college-hosted events scheduled in the near future have also been postponed or cancelled. The college received news from the

National Junior College Athletic Association that it has cancelled the remainder of spring competition. Luna competes in both softball and baseball.

Students, employees and the public are encouraged to visit the college's website at luna.edu or view its Facebook page for updated information. Luna students and employees are also encouraged to sign up for the college's RAVE alerts that provide emergency information via text messaging. To sign up for RAVE, go to the college's website and access the "Students" drop-down menu; click "sign up for RAVE alerts," then follow instructions.

For New Mexico status updates regarding coronavirus, visit <https://cv.nmhealth.org>

For national status updates: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Everybody counts.

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Census
2020

Graduation ceremony postponed

Luna Community College has postponed its commencement exercises — originally scheduled for Saturday May 9 — as it continues to address the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

The deadlines to apply for spring and summer graduation, ordering regalia and announcements have also been postponed.

“Students should rest assured that degree-awarding procedures will proceed as normal,” said Luna Registrar Henrietta Romero. “Once a rescheduled date has been finalized, the college will notify students.”

The Office of the Registrar will continue to provide services to students via e-mail at registrar@luna.edu or by phone at 505-454-2548.

The college’s main phone number is 1-800-588-7232. A full campus directory is available at luna.edu/directory.

All classes that could be transferred to distance education did so beginning on Monday, March 23. Luna has closed its campuses to students and the public until further notice.

Students expecting to complete programs by the end of spring or summer 2020 are asked to submit their Application for Degree and Graduation Clearance to the Office of the Registrar for processing. Students can submit their documents to the Office of the Registrar via e-mail at registrar@luna.edu or via fax to 505-454-5348. Students will still be required to contact the fiscal office to pay the \$15 one-time (per degree/certificate) graduation fee.

Other important information:

- Routing of the Graduation Clearance form will be performed by the Office of the Registrar (students need not be present).

Luna students normally graduate in the Media Arts Auditorium as seen in this file photo. This year’s graduation has been postponed due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.



- Walk-up and in-person orders for official transcripts are suspended until further notice. All patrons who require an official transcript are encouraged to use the college’s online Parchment service at:

https://exchange.parchment.com/send/adds/index.php?main_page=login&s_id=70k9ESBnh6XMxy8K.

If you are not a current student or have not used the system before, be sure to “Create Account” before beginning the process. If you require additional assistance with this process, please contact the Office of the Registrar.

- Students may also scan, e-mail or fax (505-454-5348) the Transcript Request Form to the Office of the Registrar which can be found at:

https://luna.edu/media/page_files/Transcript_Request_revised_2017.pdf.
(Include a copy of your photo ID)

“Luna Community College and the student services division are committed to ensuring that students and community members are aware of our commitment to continue to serve in these unprecedented times,” said Romero. “We appreciate everyone’s

patience and cooperation as we work to keep our campus and community safe.”

All student services departments are available remotely. Contact information for these departments is listed below.

- Financial Aid
505-454-2560
finaid@luna.edu
- Student Success Center
505-454-2549
studentsuccess@luna.edu
- Office of Admissions and Recruitment
505-454-2550
admissions@luna.edu
- Fiscal Office
505.454.2598
fiscaloffice@luna.edu
- Office of the Registrar
505-454-2548
registrar@luna.edu
- Dual Credit Office
dualcredit@luna.edu
505-454-5308
- Veterans Resource Center
scantu@luna.edu
505-454-5343
- Distance Learning
lp aiz@luna.edu
505-454-5361

FAQ on Luna's COVID-19 action plan

When did classes resume?

Alternate (online or distance education) delivery of classes began on Monday, March 23, with face-to-face classes ceasing. The campus will remain closed to students and the general public until further notice.

What is the college doing to ensure students and employees are safe?

The college has transitioned a number of on-site courses to alternate modes of delivery. The college has cancelled public gatherings and events until further notice. The college is recommending continued vigilance in preventive measures such as frequent hand washing, social distancing, limiting travel and social gatherings, as prescribed by the Centers for Disease Control and the New Mexico Department of Health. The college's facilities crew has worked diligently to sanitize the campus and has closed non-occupied buildings.

What classes were moved online?

The college has moved many of its courses to an alternate delivery method such as online or distance education. Some courses, such as those that already have an online or hybrid component, have more readily transitioned than others. Classes resumed on Monday, March 23. Students are advised to check their Luna e-mail accounts for updates. Students are advised to contact their instructors for information on specific courses throughout the rest of the semester.

What about clinicals for nursing and dental assisting?

Students who have courses with clinical rotations or other off-campus assignments are advised to check with their instructors for any schedule changes.

What about physical education classes and the wellness center? Will the gym be open?

The Gerald P. Ortega Wellness Center will be closed to all until further notice.

What is happening with Rough Rider baseball and softball?

The National Junior College Athletic Association has cancelled all spring sports which include Luna's softball and baseball season. Student-athletes who are concerned about their eligibility, should contact their coach or athletic director.

Will student services offices be available while the campus is closed to students?

The campus will be closed to students and the general public until further notice. Students can contact these offices via e-mail or telephone. The directory is available online at luna.edu/directory.

Will the preschool/daycare be open?

The Luna preschool is closed until further notice.

What will happen to the public events scheduled on campus later this semester?

All events scheduled on campus for this semester have been suspended or cancelled, including commencement exercises.

Do employees have to be on campus?

The only employees on campus are those deemed essential. The vast majority of employees are working remotely (from home).

Public schools closed for the rest of the school year. Is Luna closed as well?

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and the state Public Education Department ordered the closure of public schools (K-12) through the rest of the school year. Local districts and charters will be tasked with continuing to educate students from a distance. Like the public schools, Luna has closed its physical campuses and has moved much of its face-to-face instruction to online or distance education.

How do I find out the latest news and information about measures being taken on campus?

The college will publish updates on its social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and its website, luna.edu. We will also e-mail updates as needed to students and employees via their campus e-mail accounts. Luna students and employees are also encouraged to sign up for the college's RAVE alerts that provide emergency information via text messaging. To sign up for RAVE, both students and employees have to go to the college's website and access the "Students" drop-down menu; click "sign up for RAVE alerts," then follow instructions. The college will share its updates with local media outlets as needed.

For New Mexico status updates regarding coronavirus, visit <http://https://cv.nmhealth.org>

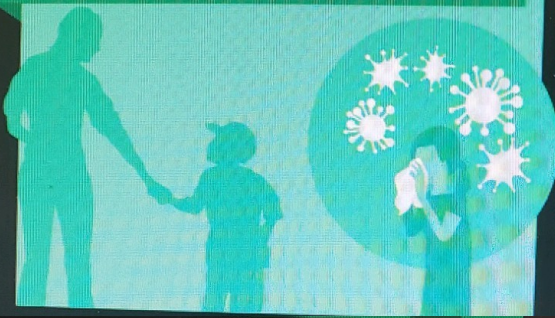
For national updates: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

COVID
CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE **19**

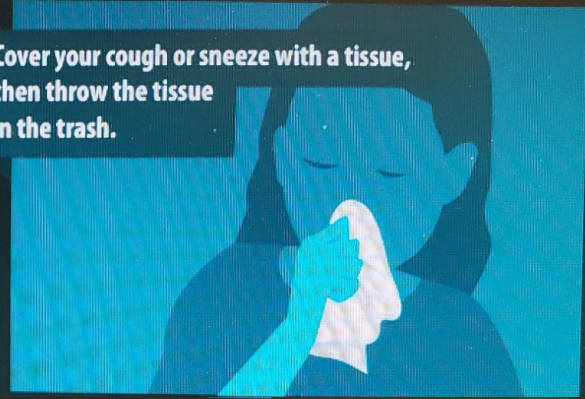
STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

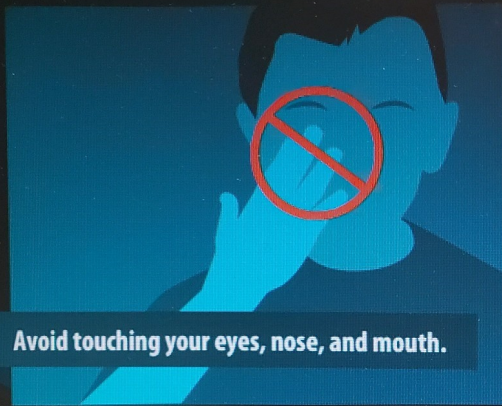
Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



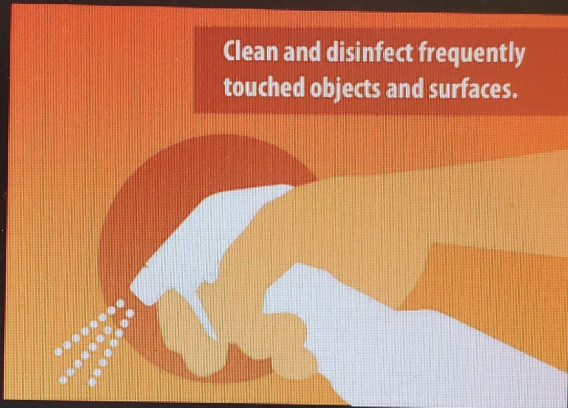
Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



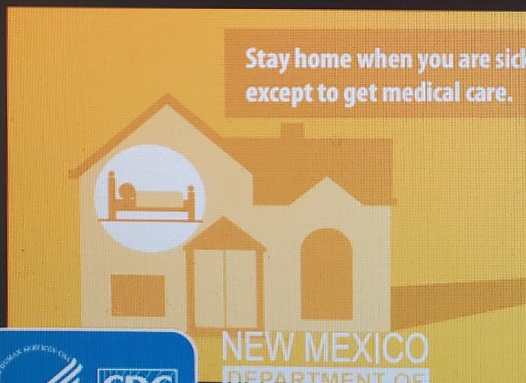
Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



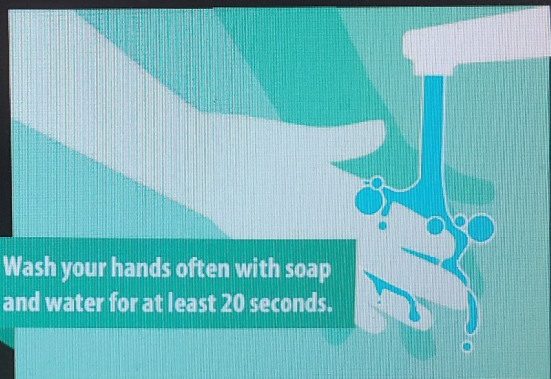
Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH

For more information: cv.nmhealth.org

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