

April 1, 2020

Letter for TAMU COALS  
Essential Personnel:

Although **NOT CURRENTLY REQUIRED** according to [Texas Executive Order No. GA-14](#) guidelines, COAL's has provided a 'proof of employment' letter to carry while traveling to/from and conducting essential work for Texas A&M AgriLife. For more details, please contact Amy at [carwile@tamu.edu](mailto:carwile@tamu.edu).

**Pre-Registration begins tomorrow, April 2 for undergraduate students**

If students have not made an appointment with an advisor they can schedule one now in Navigate.

Pre-Registration for current undergraduate students will be:

**April 2 – April 17, 2020**

Open Registration begins April 20, 2020.

Link to schedule an appointment in Navigate - <https://tamu.campus.eab.com/>.

# COVID-19 Updates & Resources



Greetings all,

I hope these updates help provide an overview of the changing scope of the COVID-19 response. I do appreciate all that you are doing to work through these various challenges that we have had to face.

In case you missed it, here are Q&A's posted by NIFA today.

This FAQ covers the most commonly asked questions about impacts of the COVID-19 emergency on USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) grants. NIFA continues to evaluate options and flexibilities related to coronavirus impacts and will announce updates to this FAQ in the NIFA Update.

<https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/NIFA-20-005-NIFA-Coronavirus-FAQs.pdf>

Take care, Cliff

**Key website that provide current information in response to COVID-19:**

Brazos County Health District: <http://www.brazoshealth.org/node/87>

TAMU FAQ page: <https://www.tamu.edu/coronavirus/#FAQ>

COALS: <https://aglifesciences.tamu.edu/covid19/>

Extension: <https://texashelp.tamu.edu/>

Vice President for Research: <https://vpr.tamu.edu/covid-19>

Centers for Disease Control (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Texas Health & Human Services: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>

USDA NIFA: <https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/NIFA-20-005-NIFA-Coronavirus-FAQs.pdf>

## **Interested in learning how to proctor exams with ZOOM?**

Please join us for a panel discussion with faculty and staff from the College of Science, the Office of Academic Innovation, and the Center for Teaching Excellence as they share their experiences live proctoring exams using ZOOM.

This 1-hour session will:

- Discuss the logistics involved with live proctoring an exam using ZOOM;
- Highlight success stories from the Departments of Math and Physics and Astronomy;
- Provide considerations for large-enrollment courses;
- Explain the recording feature in ZOOM and demonstrate how to communicate to students that proctoring sessions may be recorded for use by the proctor; and
- Share best practices for faculty and students for a successfully-proctored exam.

The session will be moderated by Dr. Jocelyn Widmer, Assistant Provost for Academic Innovation, and Dr. Debra Fowler, Director, Center for Teaching Excellence.

**When:** Wednesday, April 1, 2020 4:00 p.m. CDT

**Where:** ZOOM [tamuzoom.us/j/506614463pwd=MEtMQ2M0b0UyS1kwOG41Z2hRR0I3Zz09](https://tamuzoom.us/j/506614463pwd=MEtMQ2M0b0UyS1kwOG41Z2hRR0I3Zz09)

**Meeting ID:** 506 614 463

**Password:** 027424

The session will be recorded and posted on [kepteaching.tamu.edu](https://kepteaching.tamu.edu) afterwards.



# Extension Updates:

**SENT ON BEHALF of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Director Dr. Jeff Hyde**

Extension colleagues,

During this time of COVID 19 we understand that employees and their families are experiencing additional stress. We encourage you to seek support through the Employee Assistance Program. The EAP has many resources, including individual counseling, available to address a variety of work/life issues.

Guidance Resources:

Website: <http://www.guidanceresources.com>

**WEBID: TAMUS**

**Phone:** 1-866-301-9623

## **Programming**

In a previous agency update, it was communicated that April 17<sup>th</sup> would be a potential date to resume face to face meetings and other program activities. However, in a concerted effort to protect the health and safety of all Extension employees and communities from the spread of COVID-19, no face to face programming and meetings will be held through **May 4<sup>th</sup>**. This follows the Governor's order announced today closing schools until May 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **Reporting**

A reminder about Texas COVID 19 Pandemic Time Reporting: All agents and specialists will report daily time and effort related to COVID-19 at the following Qualtrics link:

[https://agrilife.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8q8zVGf083MSeUJ](https://agrilife.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8q8zVGf083MSeUJ)

This report does not replace Texas data reporting.

## **Operation Face Mask**

[Guidelines to Operation Face Mask](#) have been established and are available on the Texas Eden Employee site (pwd: 77843). The project is in response to the shortage of Personal Protection Equipment. Extension has enlisted Texas Extension Education Association members, 4-H members, 4-H Ambassadors, Healthy Texas Youth Ambassadors, Master Clothing Volunteers and Master Wellness Volunteers. These groups have already been actively involved producing homemade face masks meeting CDC guidelines requirements.

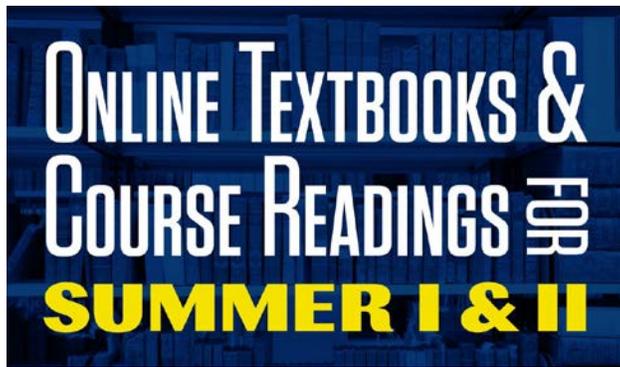
In just the first week of implementation, more than 764 masks have been distributed, mostly locally in their counties in the first week. Contact Joyce Cavanagh ([jacavanagh@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jacavanagh@ag.tamu.edu)) for instructions and guidelines. Thank you for your rapid response in filling a critical need throughout our state!

## **Updated COVID-19 Social Media Content Schedule**

A content schedule for AgriLife Extension social media accounts has been updated. To access the calendar, visit the [Extension Social Media](#) document to share posts and other information. Agency social media feeds:

- Twitter: @txextension
- Facebook: @agrilifeextension

Reminder: The COVID-19 AgriLife Extension web hub provides information and resources on the agency website. Visit <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/coronavirus> for more on Health, Parenting & Child Activities, Food & Nutrition, Self-Reliance, Emergency Preparedness and more.



## Textbook Message to Faculty

Faculty,

The Texas A&M University Libraries are aware that many students may no longer have access to textbooks due to the impact of COVID-19. There are several ways the University Libraries can help:

Search the library collection of [eBooks](#) to add to your course or syllabi. Many eBooks have limits on the number of students that can access the book simultaneously. [Submit a Request](#) for the Libraries to increase the number of seats to meet your course needs.

If the Libraries does not currently provide access materials that you need, [Submit a Request for Online Textbook or Course Readings](#). Please only request the materials you need to complete the current semester. Many publishers are offering limited free and trial access to textbook materials during the pandemic. The University Libraries can help you navigate those offers.

For **Summer I** term, please try to submit requests **before May 15th**.

For **Summer II** term, please try to submit requests **before June 15th**.

The University Libraries cannot guarantee the availability of all requests, but can offer suggestions for other options should the initial request be unavailable.

*Note: Instructors accustomed to making requests through the [Course Reserves page](#) can continue to do so for eReserves and eBook requests. Please try to follow our suggested timelines above for best results.*

Consider putting together a course pack of readings using existing Library resources. Adopt an [Open Educational Resource](#).

For audio and video, please [request streaming media](#).

For additional help with your courses please contact your [Subject Librarian](#) or [AskUs](#).

## Meal support for our students

**COLLEGE STATION, Tex. (KBTX)** - Since Texas A&M University and Blinn College transitioned to online courses, many students moved back home, but some are sticking around.



Austin Fanning with Dorm Dish and Brian Hall at Friday Harbour in Houston teamed up to make sure those students get fed for free. They're calling it 'Feed Maroon.'

Fanning said Dorm Dish is an affordable subscription meal plan for college students, and without a majority of his target audience here, he wanted to provide free meals for students that might be out of a job.

"Who we want to target is those who might've been able to buy a meal any other time, or maybe they're still able to, but this relief of a financial burden just with a good home-cooked meal will help," said Fanning. "Not to mention, they're really good."

Fanning said they're trying to feed as many students as possible. The only requirement is for them to have a student ID.

"It's just nice for them to say, hey, somebody cares and this isn't a gas station sandwich," said Fanning.

Calvary Court is supplying the venue, so students walk up to the window, grab a meal and enjoy it while practicing social distancing.

[https://www.kbtx.com/content/news/Local-food-service-company-providing-free-meals-for-college-students-569107721.html?fbclid=IwAR26J5vdPTvHC\\_B2KSKCrr6TgLrAJN6cAp3MPhApUwvK\\_D6H5uBYdsJ0rD0](https://www.kbtx.com/content/news/Local-food-service-company-providing-free-meals-for-college-students-569107721.html?fbclid=IwAR26J5vdPTvHC_B2KSKCrr6TgLrAJN6cAp3MPhApUwvK_D6H5uBYdsJ0rD0)