

April 6, 2020

IMPORTANT: To ensure that our graduate students register for the correct course and number of hours, we have set all course limits to ANSC 691, 684, and 685 to 0. If a graduate student needs to register for one of these courses during Summer 2020 or Fall 2020, they will need to fill out this guidance form:

<https://forms.gle/HhgSftbCufGoc18m8>.

Students will be added to the course during open registration once the form has been submitted. If a student does not complete this form, they will not be added to the course.

Links that are helpful to graduate students:

- <http://ogaps.tamu.edu/New-Current-Students>
- <http://ogaps.tamu.edu/Buttons/Forms-Information>
- <http://ogaps.tamu.edu/Buttons/Resources-for-Degree-Completion>
- [http://ogaps.tamu.edu/About/Frequently-Asked-Questions-\(FAQs\)/Thesis-and-Dissertation-FAQs](http://ogaps.tamu.edu/About/Frequently-Asked-Questions-(FAQs)/Thesis-and-Dissertation-FAQs)
- <http://ogaps.tamu.edu/New-Current-Students/Thesis-and-Dissertation-Services>
- <http://ogaps.tamu.edu/Buttons/Funding-Opportunities>
- <http://ogaps.tamu.edu/Buttons/Calendars>

COVID-19 Updates & Resources



Greetings all,

I participated in the monthly administrative meeting today with our college and AgriLife leadership. I do need to let you all know that the college administration was very complimentary of how well our faculty, students, and staff have adapted face to face classes to online with few major issues. For your information, our department converted 39 face to face classes to online, coupled with 80 lab sections. This is quite an accomplishment! In addition, our advisors are currently advising between 75 and 150 students a week either by video conference or by phone.

A few things that we are working on and thinking about for the future:

- 1) Planning to teach all classes during the summer as online classes, this includes study abroad and internships. As we have guidance, we will share it with you.
- 2) Current Extension search positions (Meat Science and Livestock) have been suspended, but we have made a request to continue our teaching/research position searches (Epigenetics and Horse Judging Team Coordinator/Lecturer).
- 3) If you are conducting any research or Extension demonstration research, please be sure to following the guidance and fill out the appropriate requests.
- 4) I continue to remain concerned about what the future holds for our budget and will let you know if we hear any guidance. In addition, there may be a point in the future where a decision needs to be made on whether we will be offering all classes for the fall online. I suspect this mandate will occur at the latest possible moment, so please be prepared in case we are faced with that reality.

I appreciate all you do,

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/>

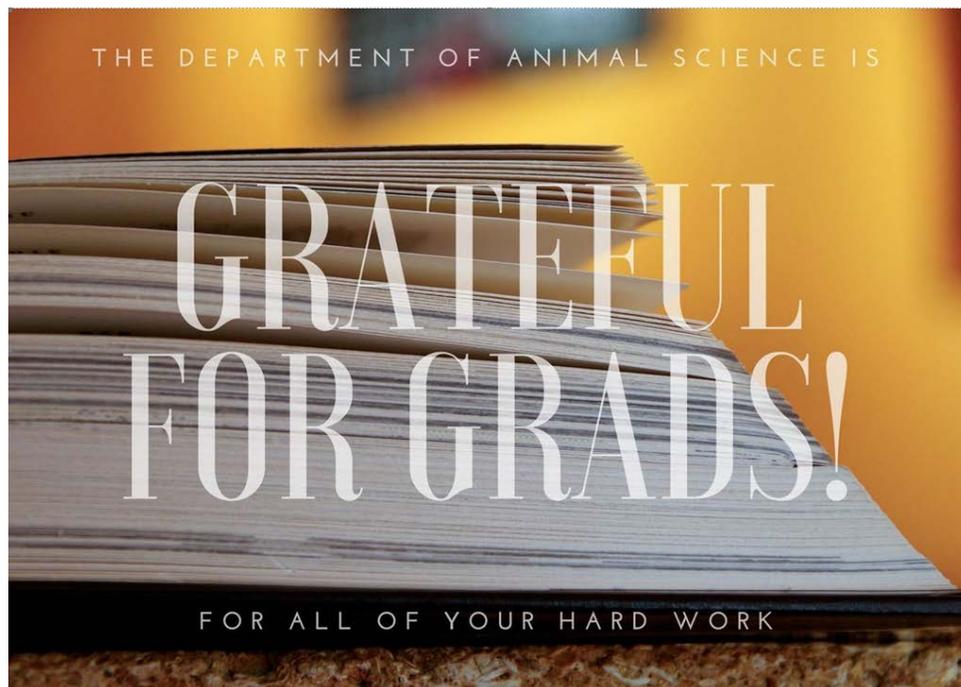
Extension: <https://texashelp.tamu.edu/>

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>



SPRING SEMESTER 2020

MASTER'S – NON-THESIS OPTION

- **April 10** Friday Last day to take final examination.
- **April 14** Tuesday Last day for all students to drop courses with no penalty (Q-drop). Last day to officially withdraw from the University.

MASTER'S – THESIS OPTION

- **April 24** Friday Last day for all students to drop courses with no penalty (Q-drop). Last day to officially withdraw from the University

DOCTORAL DEGREES

Preliminary examination results must be received and approved by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies prior to submitting the "Request and Announcement of the Final Examination".

- **April 24** Friday Last day for all students to drop courses with no penalty (Q-drop). Last day to officially withdraw from the University.

CLEARANCE FOR MAY 2020 DEGREE CANDIDATES

- **May 6** Wednesday Academic Degree Evaluations conducted *after* 6:00 p.m.

May 29 Friday Last day to CLEAR for spring 2020 graduation. (Applies **ONLY** to those students not clearing final audit on degree audit night.)

Thanks!

Carissa

Carissa Beamon, M.A.

Academic Advisor III

Graduate Student Advisor

Howdy! The communications group is putting together an internal newsletter about how work looks a little different these days, but we need your help. Please send any of the following (with photo) or other suggestions you have to ansccommunications@tamu.edu. And don't tell us you haven't done anything, we've seen plenty of Facebook posts that prove otherwise ;)

-Coworker Shenanigans

- What have your kids been up to while you're working from home?
- How's homeschooling and working going?
- Are they "helping" you teach class?

-Pets

- Are they overseeing your productivity?
- Are they taking you on walks to give you a break from being stuck inside?
- Are they "helping" you teach?

-Quarantine Tips

- How are you staying safe when you have to go out?
- How are you fighting boredom?

-A Little Reminder That It Could Always Be Worse...

- Did your TV just go out?
- Having work done on your house & contractor says they're non-essential?

-Updates On Your Latest Online Shopping Adventures

- What have you not been able to live without?
- What strange purchases has boredom led to?

-What does your work from home "office" look like?

-How has your "classroom/lab" changed?

Help us break up the stream of COVID-19 news with a little fun!



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

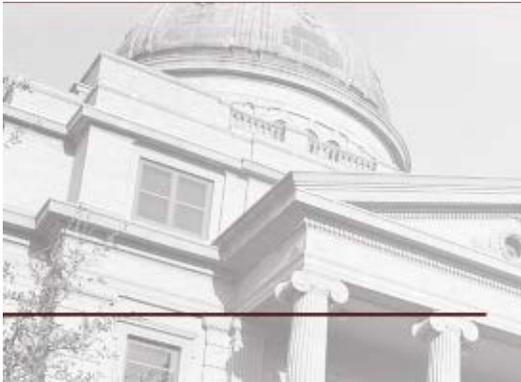
Provost Communications

Texas A&M University students, parents of students, faculty, and staff are all experiencing change during these extraordinary times. We would like to learn more about your experience with our temporary transformation to a full-time, online learning experience. Please take 2 – 3 minutes to complete a survey that can help us continue to refine and improve the online educational experience at Texas A&M. Your responses will remain confidential and anonymous.

Please complete the survey by 5 p.m. on May 1, 2020.

Access the brief survey [here](#), or click:

https://hanover-research.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9GmULnsZP88OVfL.



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost



Carol A. Fierke

All summer courses offered through Texas A&M University in the first, second, and 10-week summer terms (including the May “minimester”) will be delivered online. We had hoped to resume coursework on campus for the second summer session, but with preregistration underway, some uncertainty on the apex of COVID19, and the need for both our students, faculty, and staff to plan, we have decided to move forward with the decision to teach all summer courses online.

As we previously announced, distance education differential tuition will not be charged for online courses this summer at an individual course level for all students in traditional degree programs. For students enrolled in distance education degree programs, there is no change in how they will be charged.

We continue to work with colleges to ensure that the university offers a robust schedule of summer coursework to ensure that students can make progress toward their degrees.

As a reminder, please consult the [main Texas A&M University COVID-19 website](#) for regular updates, as well as keeplearning.tamu.edu.



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost

Relationship between A-F grades and S/U grades—The relationship between letter grades A-F and S/U is described in [Student Rule 10 Grading](#) and varies depending on the academic level of the course:

- Undergraduate course—Satisfactory, S (C or above); Unsatisfactory: U (D or F)
- Graduate course—Satisfactory, S (B or above); Unsatisfactory: U (C, D, or F)
- Professional—Varies by program, please refer to Student Rule 10 Grading

Student election of S/U grading—Students may elect to change from A-F grading to S/U grading at any time before the deadline of 5:00 PM on April 28, 2020. Student who elected S/U grading can also change back to A-F grading before the deadline.

Maintenance of grade sheets—Instructors must adhere to the same grading scheme that was published in the syllabus at the beginning of the semester or revised syllabus published as instruction was moved online. Grading must continue as if all students are earning a letter grade, and grade sheets must be maintained accordingly.

Student access to grades—Instructors must make grades received on all assignments, quizzes, reports, tests, etc. assigned during the regular semester in advance of the April 28, 2020 deadline so students can make an informed decision about grading type. Assignment grades can be posted in eCampus or Google Classroom or by individual email from the instructor's TAMU email to each student via their official TAMU email account. Instructors must follow [FERPA guidance](#) when making grade information available to students.

Entering final grades—All grade options will be displayed on the final grade roster. Final grades for courses that are typically taught for letter grade (A-F) must be entered as letter grades. The final grade entered will be automatically converted to S/U by the Registrar's Office for any student who has elected that grading option.

Changes to final grades—A process is in place to allow students receiving a grade of U who would have received a passing grade with A-F grading (a D for undergraduate courses or a C for graduate courses) to request a change back to letter grade mode so that the course may apply to their degree program. Contact your dean's office for details.

Additional details are available in the following locations:

[Office of Graduate and Professional Studies](#)

[Office for Student Success](#)

The following measures regarding Texas A&M University camps and programs for minors are effective immediately:

- Any face to face/in person programs are cancelled through June 30th
- Institutional level decisions regarding the remainder of the summer will be made May 1st
- Individual colleges/departments are encouraged to make decisions regarding the cancellation of any programs scheduled after June 30th based on their unique needs, personnel requirements and financial commitments
- Individual colleges/departments are also encouraged to explore online alternatives. If programs move to an online platform, please contact University Youth Programs for adjusted risk and compliance information including adjusted requirements to the yearly compliance checklist.

Making the decision to limit opportunities for potential future Aggies to experience the many wonderful things Texas A&M has to offer was very difficult, and we are diligently making informed decisions with sincere consideration for their impact on individuals and the broader community. Thank you for your attention and continued flexibility as we navigate this unprecedented season together.

Note: Events not subject to camps and programs for minors regulations will follow the current COVID-19 protocols for TAMU which can be found at www.tamu.edu

Kevin P. McGinnis
Chief Risk, Ethics, and Compliance Officer

Updated guidance on coronavirus, April 2

Colleagues,

Thank you for your patience as we work to keep you informed on the latest information available from the state of Texas and The Texas A&M University System. This week Governor Abbot issued [Executive Order GA-14](#), which tightens efforts to reduce further exposure of COVID-19 and flatten the curve. Today we want to update you on the impact of this executive order, as well as a few additional operational items for your awareness.

Executive Order GA-14

[Executive Order GA-14](#) allows only essential services in the state until April 30, 2020, and requires many businesses to close or severely limit operations. Unlike the various local orders that have been issued by cities and counties across the state over the past 7-10 days, The Texas A&M University System and its member institutions and agencies are legally obligated to comply with the Governor's order.

A few key points from GA-14:

- All individuals may leave their residences to (a) access essential services, (b) engage in daily essential activities (grocery shopping), (c) provide essential services, and (d) engage in outdoor activities, so long as necessary precautions are taken.
- The Governor's order specifies that "all government entities...should be allowed to continue providing essential services" and also includes colleges and universities on the list of essential services that may continue to operate "for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing other [essential functions](#)."

Given staffing guidance that has already been implemented (operating with only essential personnel in the workplace, observing social distancing in the workplace, ensuring that enhanced custodial and hygiene practices are used, providing online instruction only, and most employees working from home), this executive order does not impact our current operating measures (with the exception of AgriLife Research).

AgriLife Research views research as an essential operation, however, the GA-14 order and the evolving pandemic situation requires additional scrutiny and adjustment of our mission essential activities so that we do not contribute to the spread of the virus.

We are asking all AgriLife PIs who intend to continue essential research to inform their immediate supervisors (e.g. Department Heads, Center Directors) and seek approval to conduct that research [through this online form](#). Unit leaders have the delegated authority to approve or suspend all proposed research activity. All research activities that are not approved as being essential, and that cannot be carried out remotely, must be suspended. The AgriLife Research Director will provide oversight and review all research individual units approve as essential. Additional information and guidance can be found on the [AgriLife Research website](#).

Impacts to Federal Funding Agencies / Grant Opportunities

This week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) [posted a frequently asked questions document](#) regarding impacts of the COVID-19 emergency on NIFA. This FAQ document includes updates to deadlines for USDA NIFA applications, awards, and administrative relief for recipients of ongoing projects impacted by COVID-19 due to loss of operations. When in doubt or if you have a program specific question not covered by NIFA's FAQ, please contact the National Program Leader listed as contact for your program. For questions about awards, please contact NIFA at awards@usda.gov to consult with a grant specialist.

Updates related to COVID-19 impacts from other Federal Funding Agencies can be found in the following link provided by the Council on Government Relations: <https://www.cogr.edu/institutional-and-agency-responses-covid-19-and-additional-resources>

Additionally, current federal agency COVID-19 funding opportunities can be found at: <https://cers.tamu.edu/funding-opportunity-news/>.

Clock extension

Because of the disruption in work caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Texas A&M University is providing tenure-track faculty, upon request, a one-year extension of the “tenure clock” whose mandatory tenure review is during the 2020-21 academic year. An extension must be requested by May 31, 2020, and follow the process described on the [DOF website](#).

AgriLife Research is extending the same courtesy to Assistant and Associate Professors whose mandatory promotion review was to occur the next fiscal year. The agency will grant, upon request, a one-year extension. Such extension must be made by completing a form that will soon be available on the [Administrative Services website](#). This form should be routed for approvals by close of business on May 31, 2020.

All other Assistant and Associate Professors will remain with their scheduled promotion clock. For those who are due for a mid-term review (3rd year review) as Assistant Professors, we have pushed the review by the college and AgriLife P&T committee to [mid-summer](#). Departments must submit midterm dossiers to the college for initial review by June 19.

In closing, I know these are challenging times. Many of you are working remotely, balancing the demands of work life and home life while coronavirus remains a concern. Please know that we understand and appreciate your extraordinary efforts. We cannot succeed without the outstanding contributions put forth by each of you so please continue on with the assurance that you have our complete support. Further, if you have thoughts and ideas about how we can better assist you during this time, please send them directly to my attention at vcdean@ag.tamu.edu.

Working together we will overcome this trying period in our history and emerge stronger and better prepared to meet the many challenges facing our state, nation and world.

For the latest information, please visit <https://agrilife.org/coronavirus/>.

Stay well,

Patrick J. Stover, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor, Texas A&M AgriLife
Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Director, Texas A&M AgriLife Research

EXTENSION UPDATE

Over the past few weeks there has been a great deal of information coming to us and we want to make sure that all this important information is being communicated through the ranks in the Department and Units. We have discovered that there are some Department Extension employees that have not received information on a few of the items listed below.

- Safety and Health of our Extension personnel and their families are of first importances as they consider their role in mission critical activities.
- There is an employee web site that houses all our Covid-19 related information and documents. The password is 77843.
- We have guidelines for performing Mission Critical duties (If these duties can be postponed they should). <https://texashelp.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Guidelines-for-Field-Scouting-and-Field-Site-Visits-Walkins-March-21.pdf>.
- Regardless of where you are traveling (county, district, region, or state) you must fill out a Travel Form and receive approval for that activity before traveling. <https://texashelp.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID-19-Travel-Request.pdf>.
- Fee based program efforts are expected to continue for all Distance Educational Programming. Specialist and Agents are expected to charge for their programming efforts for Distance in the same manner they would have for face-to-face programming. From the Specialists point of view there are three main ways to cover this feed based program fee. In each case a roster needs to be submitted along with the fee based programming fees.
 - The following web site houses information and forms that will be helpful for Specialists to review <https://agrilifeas.tamu.edu/fiscal/fiscal-banking-and-receivables/ext-fee-based-program/extension-fee-based-programs-specialists/>
 - a. Events with registration fees can be coordinated through Conference Services (normal fee structure as has been done in the past apply, see <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/AboutUs>). This is recommended for programs targeted towards special audiences with intensive workshops (such as Ranch Management University, Beef 706, Master Marketers) and Regional-wide and State-wide programming.
 - b. Offer for free and pay the fee through external sponsorship (minimum of \$10/person or if the registration fee is higher 10%). You could use this form for invoice request to the sponsor <https://agrilifeas.tamu.edu/documents/ag-242.pdf/>. **Once this information is obtained, submit completed AG242 to unit business coordinator to send official invoice to the sponsor via iPayments. A copy of the external entities W9 is required for invoicing and should be submitted with AG242 to the unit business coordinator.**
 - c. May not be done directly by the Specialists, but if the Specialist is working with a Multi-County program, one of the agents could work with a local committee. The County Agents will be receiving guidance on this later in the week on tools Local Committee might consider using for the registration process.
- Please remind your Extension Specialists to contact the appropriate Regional Program Leader at the beginning program planning process. Also, as appropriate include Extension Agents and stakeholder at the beginning of the program planning process.
- If you have a @ag.tamu.edu email account then they have access to MS Teams to deliver Distance conferencing and meetings. This accommodate up to 250 people and has no time limit. All agents have access to Teams, but not Zoom. MS Teams does not have a call in number.
- Every ADH,RPL, and DEA has a Zoom account that we are encouraging Specialists to use to conduct Distance meetings. These will accommodate 300 people at one time and has a 24 hour meeting time maximum. Zoom has a call in feature.
- We have two Zoom licenses that will accommodate up to 1000 people and has a 24 hour meeting time maximum. We will check out of the Extension Administration office
 - One Zoom License s assigned to Deborah Sutherland: deborah.sutherland@ag.tamu.edu (Debbie will schedule large conferences for FCH/4-H & Youth related meetings)
 - One Zoom license is assigned to Rebekah See-Hruska: rebekah.seehruska@ag.tamu.edu (Rebekah will schedule large conferences for ANR related meetings)

Thank you for your help in conveying this information to your Specialist and Department Extension personnel.
Dan Hale and Courtney Dodd

Updated Information: **Extension personnel should fill out the Research Form requesting permission to continue Extension Research.**

If you believe that you need to continue to conduct mission critical Extension Research, each PI must complete the AgriLife Research Form. This would be work that is preformed in the lab, at Texas A&M University System facilities or in the field and deem as Essential Research. Please review the guidance provided by the Vice Chancellor's office as to whether the Extension Research is determined to be essential (see <https://agriliferesearch.tamu.edu/covid19/>).

PIs for Extension Research will fill out the same form as AgriLife Research (see the form <https://agriliferesearch.tamu.edu/essential-research-activities-exemption-request/>).

If travel is incurred during these research activities each Extension personnel doing the work is required to complete the Extension Travel Form (<https://texashelp.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID-19-Travel-Request.pdf>).

Field site visits for stakeholders and scouting does not come under the definition of Extension Research.

Thank you for your assistance in complying with these new requirements.

Dan

Extension colleagues,

Please see the latest COVID-19 agency updates.

Weekly COVID-19 Agency Zoom Call

The weekly DAR COVID-19 agency Zoom conference call is available at the [Texas EDEN employee site](#) (pwd: 77843). Today's call featured updates on cases in Texas; handwashing study led by Dr. Mark Faries; update on DAR, Animal/Agriculture from Rachel Bauer, as well as upcoming trainings for agents on COVID-19. More than 300 joined the call.

Comfort Food Care Package Program

Gov. Abbott announced this week the Comfort Food Care Package program provides meals for at-risk youth and families across Texas in response to COVID-19. Participating restaurants offer CFCPs for patrons to purchase on behalf of families and youth in need. Each package contains enough food to feed a family of five to six and is delivered to recipients' homes.

The program utilizes these steps:

1. Participating restaurants list CFCPs on their online ordering system for customers to purchase on behalf of at-risk families and youth in the community.
2. Customers add CFCPs to their orders and purchase.
3. Family and Youth Success Programs identify families and shelters who have the most need and work with participating restaurants and Favor to get the meals delivered.

Families interested in utilizing the CFCP program should contact their local Family and Youth Success Program for more information. Restaurants interested in participating in the program can sign up on the [Texas Restaurant Association website](#).

Upcoming Trainings:

COVID-19 Reporting

The last scheduled Zoom training session with agents and specialists for COVID-19 reporting of activities and educational contacts is Monday, April 6th from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The trainings provide guidance on reporting the different situations and scenarios.

Join URL: <https://zoom.us/j/934556379>

Basics of Qualtrics

A Qualtrics basic training will be held on Thursday, April 9 at 1 p.m. The training will focus on basic functions of Qualtrics:

- How to set up a survey
- Distributing a survey
- Reviewing results

The training will focus on those individuals wanting to learn how to get started using the Qualtrics system. The Zoom training can be accessed at <https://zoom.us/j/547968223> .

To wrap up this week, enjoy your weekend, get plenty of rest, stay healthy and take care of yourself!

Blair L. Fannin

Associate Director of Extension Communications

April 2, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Texas A&M University Faculty and Staff Employees

SUBJECT: Acts of Gratitude and Appreciation

I want to express my gratitude and admiration for your extraordinary commitment and service to our university. Over the last few weeks, we collectively have been challenged to fundamentally change everything we do – from educating students and maintaining business operations, to how we go about our lives at home and in the community. Each small act of patience, resolve, gratitude, and service has a compounding effect on how we experience work. Small actions are the difference between great and exceptional.

An email was sent out in February, announcing the expansion of staff appreciation activities for the month of April. While the events we highlighted in that email, including the President's Meritorious Service Awards, will no longer be able to take place on campus this spring, there is more potential for small acts of gratitude and appreciation than ever before.

I am challenging each of us to make our university an exceptional place to work by taking on acts of appreciation, gratitude, or service this spring. Let your colleagues and work-family know how much they are valued. Show your appreciation in small ways. EVERYDAY.

The new Flourish program is here to support you:

Invite your colleagues:

Flourish is hosting virtual events that are just for fun, get you moving, help you manage stress, and give you a chance to be more connected.

Send a note:

Email Flourish with your thanks, positive thoughts, or encouraging words for an individual or team on campus who is making a difference. We want to celebrate them.

Help those affected by COVID-19:

Flourish has established a COVID-19 support site where you can request assistance, volunteer resources, or donate money to the staff emergency fund.

Be the change:

Want to be a leader in gratitude and appreciation? Send us your ideas. Flourish has a small number of grants to help you get your idea off the ground.

With appreciation for all you do – thanks and gig ‘em,

Jeff

Texas A&M faculty and staff who have access to personal protective equipment are being asked to donate whatever they can to help medical personnel and first-responders dealing with patients suffering from COVID-19.

A&M has set up a [survey](#) that will go to officials with A&M's Environmental Health and Safety department. They will then contact the individual to discuss collecting the items.

Christina Robertson, Texas A&M's director of Environmental Health & Safety who also serves on the logistics team for the Brazos County Community Emergency Operations Center, said she's grateful for all the donations made to support the community's healthcare providers and emergency responders.

Officials with the county's Emergency Operations Center said they can only accept manufactured items and are not able to take handmade masks or other supplies.

Items that are being accepted include the following:

- Face shields
- Nitrile gloves – any size
- Exam gloves – any size
- Impermeable coverall without hood – any size
- Eye goggles or equivalent
- Shoe covers/booties (disposable) – any size
- N95 masks or equivalent
- Surgical/isolation gowns – any size
- Surgical masks – standard procedure
- Hand sanitizer – pump
- Disinfecting wipes

Howdy ALGS Faculty Members,

What a time for international education! The current coronavirus pandemic has certainly changed the landscape of international programs. Texas A&M and the College continue our commitment to providing quality education abroad programs. We are looking forward to offering programs again next year. As such, we are accepting proposals for faculty-led programs for summer 2021 (summer 1, summer 2, summer 10-week). The deadline for summer 2021 programs is May 1.

If you are interested in developing an education abroad program, please contact Kerri Vance, kvance@tamu.edu, to discuss available options and processes.

Thank you for supporting international education in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Best,
Kerri

Kerri Vance | Coordinator for International Academic Programs

Ethics and Risk Management in the new Aggie Reality of Online Meetings, Classes

While we continue to adapt to the impact of COVID-19 on our communities and our institutional mission, we rely increasingly on electronic media such as Zoom meetings.

It is suggested that the host of such an online meeting only allow recording of the discussion in accordance with what would be recorded in the normal course and scope of operations.

This measure is being taken to protect the privacy of meeting participants as required by university IT rules and SAPs. In addition, participants wanting to record must obtain permission from the host and all participants in the meeting. Any recording should only be used for university business purposes. Too, such recordings may be subject to disclosure through open records, and the recordings may be subject to records retention requirements.

ANY class recordings that include students are considered education records and thereby subject to FERPA. Recordings that show students may only be kept and used by the instructor of record for the current class and section in which the student participates. These recordings may not be used in subsequent semesters and, under record retention policy, should be retained for one year after the course completion.

Updates from IT on Increased Zoom Security

RECENT TAMU ZOOM ACCOUNT UPDATES

- **NEW: Zoom In-Meeting Security Tab added to Host's Meeting Toolbar** (available with Zoom client version 4.6.10):
 - Please update your Zoom client to version 4.6.10. If you are unable to, please contact your IT department or Help Desk Central for assistance.
 - [How to check your Zoom client version](#)
 - [Best practices for securing a virtual classroom in Zoom](#)
- **Microsoft Password Vulnerability**
 - Resolved with Zoom client version 4.6.9 which was available for download on 4/3/2020.
- **Zoombombing**
 - TAMU has issued recommended guidelines for setting up a secure Zoom meeting. More information can be found in this [link](#).
- **Cloud Recordings**
 - Only individuals with a TAMU NetID and Password will be able to view TAMU Zoom cloud recordings. *This is a recent TAMU change to Account Settings.*
 - Only the host is allowed to download a Zoom cloud recording. *This is a recent TAMU change to Account Settings.*
- **In-Meeting Recording** (*applicable to Cloud or Local Recordings*)
 - The host controls the ability to record. Unless the host grants permission to a participant, no other recordings can take place within Zoom.
 - When a meeting is being recorded in Zoom, "Recording..." appears in the upper left-hand corner. This is visible to all participants.
- **Local Recording**
 - In account settings, it is possible to allow the host and participants to record the meeting to a local file.
 - The host may give participants the ability to record locally. **By default, this is not enabled.** You as the host have to enable this in your Zoom Advanced Settings.

RECOMMENDATIONS WHEN RECORDING STUDENTS FOR LIVE ONLINE PROCTORING USING ZOOM

- It is recommended that faculty add verbiage to exam guidelines that are distributed to students ahead of the exam to disclose that the faculty member/TA will be recording the proctored exams.
- This information should be repeated at the start of the exam once the recording has been turned on.
- Additionally, when students register for the exam via Zoom, faculty may add a disclaimer that the session will be recorded.
- If the students are recorded and they can be identified, the portion that shows the student(s) would be an educational record under FERPA.
- Only the instructor and/or TAs should have access to the recording. Recordings should be retained for one year from the date of the exam.

REQUIREMENT THAT STUDENTS USE WEBCAMS ON CLASSES CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM

- Council of Deans on 3/11/2020 agreed that the video function would not be required.

STEPS ZOOM IS TAKING

- To accommodate the rapid increase in demand in February 2020, Chinese datacenters were added to a lengthy whitelist of backup bridges, potentially enabling non-Chinese clients to — under extremely limited circumstances — connect to them. On 4/2/2020 Zoom took the mainland China datacenters off of the whitelist of secondary backup bridges for users outside of China.
- Permanently removed the attendee attention tracker feature (updated 4/2/2020 to clarify that it is permanently removed).
- On 3/27/2020, Zoom took action to remove the Facebook SDK in iOS client and have reconfigured it to prevent it from collecting unnecessary device information from our users.
- [A Message to our Users](#)
- [Response to Research from University of Toronto's Citizen Lab](#)

[The Facts Around Zoom and Encryption for Meetings/Webinars](#)

Kevin McGinnis
Chief Risk, Ethics, and Compliance Officer