

On Monday, March 16th, Governor Murphy released Executive Order 104 which states the following concerning colleges and universities:

“All institutions of higher education shall cease in-person instruction beginning on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, and shall cease such in-person instruction as long as this Order remains in effect. The Secretary of the Office of Higher Education shall have the authority to grant a waiver to allow in-person instruction to students on a case-by-case basis where a compelling rationale to allow such access exists. The Secretary of the Office of Higher Education shall coordinate with institutions of higher education to determine appropriate student housing conditions for those students who reside in on-campus housing as their primary residence.”

The full Executive Order can be found at:

<https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-104.pdf>

Further, on Tuesday, March 17th, the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (OSHE) released an updated version of [COVID-19: A Guide for New Jersey Institutions of Higher Education](#). This guidance include, but is not limited to , the following:

- *Pursuant to Executive Order No. 104, issued by Governor Murphy on March 16, 2020, institutions of higher education shall cease in-person instruction beginning on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 and shall cease such in-person instruction as long as Executive Order No. 104 remains in effect.*
- *In addition, Executive Order No. 104 limits all gatherings of persons in the State of New Jersey to 50 persons or fewer, excluding normal operations at airports, bus and train stations, medical facilities, office environments, factories, assemblages for the purpose of industrial or manufacturing work, construction sites, mass transit, or the purchase of groceries or consumer goods. Accordingly, institutions should take steps to limit the size of all gatherings at the institution to 50 persons or fewer.*
- *Institutions should transition to remote instruction immediately if they have not done so already;*
- *Institutions should limit in-person interaction on campus as much as possible. This includes:*
 - *Limiting in-person gatherings of students, faculty, or staff,*
 - *Discouraging communal dining and moving to “grab-and-go” meal options.*
 - *Restricting access to community gathering places, such as athletic facilities, student centers, campus commons, theaters, art galleries, and other such areas; and*
 - *Moving to telework and remote work environments for as many employees and staff as possible.*

The guidance further states that:

- *Institutions should be implementing remote learning, including making accommodations for those who lack access to either the technology or broadband internet needed to participate in online instruction and making accommodations for students with disabilities;*
- *Implement plans to include considerations for students who are already be food or housing insecure and who may suffer a disproportionate impact from the evolving situation;*

The guidance also states:

The Governor further ordered that Secretary of the Office of Higher Education shall have the authority to grant a waiver to allow in-person instruction to students on a case-by-case basis where a compelling rationale to allow such access exists. If an institution would like to seek a waiver from the Secretary to continue with in-person instruction, please contact oshe@oshe.nj.gov for more information on how to obtain a waiver.

And:

- *Institutions should institute a telecommuting or remote work policy where possible. For employees that still need to come to campus to perform their essential duties, institutions should limit large gatherings and encourage social distancing practices, such as convening meetings via conference call.*

The full guidance document can be found at:

https://nj.gov/highereducation/documents/pdf/index/3-16-2020COVID-19_HigherEducationGuidance.pdf

We strongly encourage all members of the community college community to review the Executive Order and the Guidance from OSHE.