

Subject: Important Remote Updates and Questions Answered – Jan. 20, 2021
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Greetings!

I hope the first week of your spring 2021 semester is going well. It is hard to believe that one year ago, the [first case of COVID-19](#) in the U.S. was documented. Last year, we rose to meet the many challenges that the global coronavirus pandemic threw our way. We are still evolving and growing as a community, and I am confident that this semester will be even better than the last.

YOUR success is what drives us. Throughout this semester and beyond, please take full advantage of the [many resources](#) that HACC offers. Just some of the resources available to you are listed below:

- [Career Services](#)
- [Consultation, Advocacy, Referrals and Empowerment \(CARE\) Center](#)
- [Keystone Education Yields Success \(KEYS\) Program](#)
- [Mental health resources](#)
- [Military and veterans affairs](#)
- [Online tutoring](#)
- [Student involvement](#)
- [Student Access Services](#)

As you have come to expect, following are the commonly asked questions and our responses to them. Please note that some of these responses are tentative and subject to change.

If you have additional questions and you do not see the answers on the [website](#), please submit the online form located on the website. Please see the webpage section called “Information for Students.”

We will continue to update you regularly via email and the aforementioned website.

Thank you!

John J. “Ski” Sygielski, MBA, Ed.D.
President & CEO
HACC, Central Pennsylvania’s Community College

- 1. Will more books be coming in for the spring semester? I keep checking for my required books, and they are continually out of stock.**

More books will be arriving for the spring 2021 semester. Please continue to check the [bookstore website](#) for availability, as shipments are arriving daily.

- 2. What are the on-campus masking requirements for HACC students and employees?**

Anyone approved to be on a HACC campus is **required** to wear a mask that completely covers their nose and mouth at all times while on campus. This includes driving up to the wellness screening stations, being in classrooms and being in all indoor and outdoor common areas.

HACC supports the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's \(CDC\)](#) updated mask recommendations.

Wearing a mask, social distancing, sanitizing and hand washing will help to keep our HACC community as safe as possible. Although we can never assure safety from this virus, we must be vigilant and do our part.

- 3. I heard that the U-GRO Child Care Centres were sold. How does this affect the Harrisburg and Lancaster campuses' U-GRO locations?**

On Jan. 1, 2021, the U-GRO Learning Centres joined the [Learning Care Group](#) family of brands.

The HACC leasing relationships at the Harrisburg and Lancaster campuses remain intact, and the centres will continue to operate under the U-GRO brand to serve the child care mission in our communities.

- 4. Do you have an update regarding the student mental health counseling request for proposal (RFP) process? Am I still able to get counseling services through Mazzitti & Sullivan?**

The RFP process for student mental health counseling services has been completed, and Mazzitti & Sullivan was awarded the contract.

Students will still have the following services:

- Up to three free confidential counseling services during each semester of enrollment
- Confidential 24/7 support via Mazzitti & Sullivan's direct call line
- Dozens of online resources covering topics such as mental health,

financial wellness, stress reduction and time management

To contact Mazzitti & Sullivan, please call 800-543-5080 or visit [this webpage](#) for more details about their services.

5. I heard that HACC entered into an agreement of sale for the Lebanon Campus building. Could you please provide an update?

On Dec. 24, 2020, the College entered into an agreement of sale with the City of Lebanon for the Lebanon Campus building. For additional information, please view our [news release](#).

6. Will there be more CARES Act grants for students now that the new stimulus has been passed?

The Consolidated Appropriations Act was signed into law on Dec. 27, 2020, and does include pandemic relief similar to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act grants that were previously distributed. HACC is still waiting for the final details to be worked out by Congress and to receive the funds. We will update students on any new information, and the process for students will be sent to their HAWKMail accounts.

7. Is there a procedure I should follow if I have COVID-19 symptoms, am in contact with someone who tested positive or have tested positive myself?

Please send an email to corona@hacc.edu describing whether you have tested positive, have symptoms or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive. Contact is defined as within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more.

8. Will nursing students be required to get the COVID-19 vaccine since the majority of hospitals are making it optional for their employees?

We are not requiring that students get vaccinated at this time. Should it be mandated at a state or federal level, we would reconsider. Right now, it is highly recommended but not required. Students who are NOT vaccinated may need to continue to wear masks and face shields (as per facility guidelines). Some healthcare systems may make the vaccine available to students working on their sites.

9. I'm looking to attend LPN school. Are all classes being taught remotely right now? I would love to attend, but I would only attend if it's remote due to having children at home.

Right now, all theory remains remote, but the critical skills are taught on campus. Clinical for PN is 100% face-to-face to meet the hour requirements.

10. **I am concerned about my nursing education at HACC. I feel that I am being robbed of a thorough education by being forced to learn remotely. I am currently a nursing student who has been accepted into clinicals. My last semester I spent about an hour on campus with my professors. While I understand that the coronavirus is real and can affect anyone at any time, I do not understand why nursing classes are still mostly remote. I can understand the lecture portion being remote to help minimize transmission. However, when we were on campus we had to wear full personal protective equipment (PPE).**

Wearing PPE is a critical part of being a nurse, so why can't we continue to learn actual skills while being supervised by real nurses? Actual nurses are doing it all day long these days. While learning at home, I don't have anyone to tell me if I am practicing these skills correctly. I could be teaching myself and learning to do them all wrong. I already feel as if I am disadvantaged by not getting my full education out of online classes. There is also no comradery between our class -- I don't even know my instructors or other nursing students.

Throughout this pandemic, we are still allowed to go shopping, go out to eat, do whatever we please -- just with limitations such as wearing a mask. Why can't we return to campus and just sign a waiver stating that HACC is not liable if we contract the virus?

I feel as if we are being set up for failure as nurses. My first semester in clinicals was remote -- these are basic skills that we are learning. How are we supposed to build on these skills when they weren't thoroughly learned to begin with? And yes, I did receive an "A" in all my classes last semester. Even though I already have medical experience as a medical assistant for the last four years, I am still not confident in my nursing skills that I learned last semester.

I am just asking HACC to please reconsider these campus closings until August.

We understand your concerns and are working on a balance that ensures students are safe and that they get the skills they need to be successful nurses. That is why HACC has prioritized on-campus assessment of critical skills. Every program in the state has had to make the same difficult decisions.

HACC is committed to our students and our community partners to provide well-educated students to area employers. Students can be assured they will have what they need, because our instructional plan has been approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing.

When students get to clinical, many of the perceived gaps will be filled. Our graduates are communicating with us that they are as prepared as they can be. Our area employers are restructuring their orientations to fill the gaps that all new nurses will have.

11. Can you please remind me of how the College will handle weather announcements during the COVID-19 pandemic?

If there is a weather announcement regarding campus closures, it will only impact employees and students who are approved to be on campus. All other remote work, remote instruction and virtual learning courses will continue as scheduled.

We will communicate directly to the students and employees who are approved to be on a HACC campus. Therefore, we will not be distributing a collegewide e2Campus message or notifying the local media.

Instead, we will:

- Update the [HACC website](#)
- Send an email to employees who are approved to be on campus
- Send an email to students who are approved to be on campus
- Post an announcement to the collegewide [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts

Please see the “Weather Announcement Process During COVID-19” tab on hacc.edu/Weather for more information.

12. What is e2Campus and what is it used for?

e2Campus is HACC’s free alert system that allows you to stay informed quickly when the College has immediate announcements or emergencies. You can sign up to receive a text message on your mobile device and/or an email. For more information and to sign up, please visit hacc.edu/e2Campus.

While campuses are closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, the College will not use e2Campus for weather-related announcements. Instead, the College will follow the guidelines outlined on this webpage:

<https://hacc.edu/Students/CollegeCalendars/Weather/>

13. Please provide an update on the new ultraviolet-C (UVC) disinfection equipment that we now have at all of the HACC campuses?

The MoonBeam3 UV-C disinfection equipment uses technology to eliminate pathogens from intricate, hard-to-clean surfaces in high-touch areas, including classrooms, offices, trade, nursing and dental hygiene laboratories and bathrooms.

The manufacturer completed extensive testing on the efficacy of the device on key viruses, bacteria and bacterial spores. The MoonBeam3 was proven effective against COVID-19 under a range of conditions with contact time as low as four seconds. The equipment has a three-minute cycle within roughly 6 feet of primary targets. The area can be immediately occupied after usage. The MoonBeam3 is safely outfitted with sensors that stop the device cycle if entry is attempted from outside the room.

HACC custodial teams are receiving training and will be using MoonBeam3 equipment at all campuses over the next several weeks. The teams continue to use electrostatic disinfection guns and overall high-touch point deep cleaning procedures and processes to maintain high quality cleaning of HACC campuses.

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