

March 23, 2020 Coronavirus Update from the Vice President and Dean

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on behalf of

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Today is the beginning of a new week, and I hope you were able to relax at home over the weekend. I want you to know how grateful and proud I am of all you accomplished last week. To our colleagues who I know worked throughout the entire weekend, I am especially grateful. I know we're all trying to get our upside-down world working in a structured way so we can get back to achieving our long-term professional goals.

Like you, I want to keep our critical research active for as long as possible, and I look forward to the day when the labs will be operating again at full capacity. I want our Cooperative Extension professionals to be able to continue putting science to work - ready to partner with Arizona's industries and communities for a return to economic prosperity when this crisis is over.

This will be over. I don't know when, but I do know that the quickest way to end it is to [suppress this virus aggressively](#) by working from home if possible. Doing so will protect our essential food and healthcare systems, maintain economic activity, and keep people in jobs. The behavior we choose now can keep our Extensionists securing our food supply and our research laboratories operating.

Minimizing the opportunity for this virus to infect people allows our university labs and buildings to remain virus-free and helps those who must leave home have a safe place to do their critical work.

We all have an important contribution to make in this way.

Best wishes for the coming week.

Shane

Remember, we're working together to provide the best examples we can to "flatten the curve" so our healthcare system is not overwhelmed. If we do everything right, "nothing will happen" – and that is the whole point.

Shane C. Burgess

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The University of Arizona is located statewide on the ancestral homelands of indigenous peoples.