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For More Information
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Michigan higher education community backs Gov. Whitmer’s call to limit gatherings

Michigan’s higher education community – community colleges and public and private universities and colleges – today announced they are supporting Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s call for suspension of virtually all on-campus activities not directly involved in research, including ending in-person classroom operations.

Officials from the Michigan Community College Association, Michigan Association of State Universities and Michigan Independent Colleges and Universities said they back the limitations as a way of curbing the current dangerous outbreak of COVID-19 and the best way to return to more normal operation as quickly as possible.

“Many of our member colleges are in communities that are struggling with hospital capacity due to the recent resurgence of the pandemic,” said Mike Hansen, president of the MCCA. “We are ready to do our part to help curb the spread of COVID-19.”

MASU CEO Dan Hurley said the state’s action is necessary. “We know our members are doing all they can on campus to be safe, but further action is needed. The data shows we must be more aggressive in urging people – including college students and staff -- to avoid even small gatherings if we are going to be successful in reducing the spread of COVID-19.”

Robert LeFevre, president of MICU, said private universities and colleges will revert to many of the tactics used earlier this year to crush the caseload curve. “This is not easy for anybody, but it is essential that all of our state’s institutions step up. MICU members are prepared to work with state and local health officials to take action now, so we can reopen sooner.”

The three association executives said their members already have strong plans in place for learn-from-home operations. Many of the schools had already planned to avoid post-Thanksgiving classes. More details will be available in coming days.

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