

March 12 2020

Dear Hillel Friends,

Our primary role at Hillel Milwaukee is to support our students both spiritually and emotionally and we know that the evolving situation regarding COVID-19 has been sad, confusing and stressful. As a community we have just celebrated the holiday of Purim, in which we recognize the chaotic nature of our world where as the saying goes, a Jew learns to laugh with one eye and cry with the other.

We have been monitoring the unfolding of the corona virus pandemic, and this week we learned that the primary campuses we serve will be moving to remote on line instruction until April 10th. UWM has decided to expand its spring break for two weeks until March 29th to allow time for faculty to properly equip themselves with this decision, and Marquette will implement on line learning effective March 23rd. Students living in university housing are being asked to vacate their residence halls and refrain from returning to campus following spring break.

Hillel Milwaukee is actively engaged with University administration, Hillel International, the greater Milwaukee Jewish community and our other many partners. At this time, we have made the following decisions regarding programming and building usage until April 10th:

- We will cancel all non-essential programs including weekly Shabbat and Passover seder until April 10th. With the fluidity of the situation, we will update our students and community with any changes as they unfold.
- Despite not holding student programming, our building will remain open during normal business hours M-F 9a-5p.
- Our staff is dedicated to supporting our students during this stressful and confusing time and are working diligently to determine what remote programs we can offer in the coming weeks based on student feedback. JLF will continue with a remote learning model. We have yet to determine whether our Side x Side trip to Israel will take place in

May. We will continue to monitor the travel guidelines in the weeks to come.

- Many of our students will feel the financial implications of the universities shutdown and we will be available for consultation and crisis management. In addition, we will be boosting the grocery items available from our Hillel food pantry for those students who can benefit from it. We will be adding kosher for Pesach items in the coming weeks.
- Following the recommendations from the universities and health professionals, we strongly request that if you are not feeling well, please refrain from visiting the Hillel building until you are better.

We recognize at times like these the urgency to support one another. Our Hillel Milwaukee team is dedicated to assisting our students in whatever way possible. Your wellbeing and safety is our #1 priority. Please don't hesitate to call us at 414-961-2010, or contact me directly at Julie@hillelmke.org for any specific questions or concerns.

In good health,

Julie Schack
Executive Director
Hillel Milwaukee