


OLLI at Duke

March 9, 2020

Message from the Director:

I received a message last night from the Provost (see below) cancelling ALL OLLI classes and activities from **March 14 through May 15**, as a precautionary measure due to the COVID 19.

We recognize this is very upsetting news for the OLLI learning community. We are heartsick. We recognize that this impacts everyone, from all the instructors who will not be able to conclude their classes as planned for the Winter Term as well as those instructors who have been planning to teach in the spring. Volunteers who have been working hard on community engagement strategies, instructor recruitment. OLLI film series and social activities and each one of you.

We will be issuing a course fee credit for those of you enrolled in courses that meet beyond March 14. We will refund fees for activities such as workshops, movies, and tours that take place after March 14.

We encourage you to stay connected to friends and family to avoid the negative health impacts of social isolation and loneliness. We'll be exploring other ways to keep us all connected through a Common Read (a book everyone could read like the Duke First Year students), TED talks and other resources that we hope to share via email in the next few weeks. And yes, keep washing your hands!

We'll share a Frequently Asked Questions Summary later this week as well. We ask that you not call the office. Email is the best olli@duke.edu. The OLLI Office Staff will be working during this shutdown.

You might also check out the new OLLI at Duke Facebook page for updates and other suggestions for staying connected.

We ask for your patience as we work through all of these issues.

Chris McLeod

Duke

OFFICE *of the* PROVOST

March 9, 2020

Dear OLLI learners-

By all accounts, the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is of greatest risk to individuals over 60 and people with serious medical conditions (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/>).

Out of an abundance of concern and caution for lifelong learners, as well as staff and instructors, this will be the last week of OLLI classes for this semester.

Classes occurring after March 14 will be cancelled. This decision applies to all OLLI classes and activities delivered at all locations. The suspension will continue until May 15.

We regret the disruption to plans and activities this will cause. We hope to recommence OLLI classes as soon as health and safety risks permit. Because we recognize that you are not receiving the full course of instruction for which you paid, we will provide you with a full credit to cover the cost of a future OLLI class of your choice.

Sincerely,

Sally Kornbluth
Provost