Jackson State University
College of Health Sciences – School of Public Health

A Public Health Response to COVID-19 Pandemic in Collaboration with the MS Department of Health (MSDH)

People of color disproportionately reside in densely populated metropolitan areas and are vulnerable to increased exposure to the coronavirus; 2. Higher rates of serious chronic health conditions make the coronavirus potentially more dangerous for these groups; and 3. Barriers in the health care system may prevent people of color from obtaining necessary care, so it is essential that we put the most vulnerable people at the center of these efforts.

Jackson State University’s (JSU) response under the direction of the College of Health Sciences in collaboration with all other JSU Colleges and deans will provide a synergic response to the COVID-19 epidemic.

College of Health Sciences

• Address the issues associated with Social Distancing and Contact Tracing.
• Help in testing sites.
• Collect and distribute survey data on behalf of the MSDH (data collection and analysis of the lived experiences of Mississippian’s experiences with COVID-19).
• Data use agreement is needed.
• Coordinate (through the JSU School of Social Work clinics, Communicative Disorders, and the JSU Department of Clinical Psychology community clinic) the provision of mental health services to individuals/families living with and/or affected by COVID-19.
• Provide leadership (research) for understanding social distancing behavioral change within the environments among Mississippi’s (minority/underserved) communities.
• Utilize Health Informatics and Data Analytics to make sense of Mississippi’s emerging COVID-19 data; inform decision-making, allocation of resources, and coordination among the MSDH, UMMC, Department of Education, and other key stakeholders.
• Collaborate with faith-based leaders to coordinate and support family/community social distancing, contact tracking, and other mitigation behaviors.
• Engage youth/young adult leaders in promoting mitigation behaviors (social marketing campaigns) within minority/underserved Mississippi communities in selected Mississippi Hot Spots, such as Hinds and other counties.
• Help ensure low-income individuals have access to no-cost testing and treatment related to COVID-19 and mental health.
• Explore the possibility of providing mental health through telehealth in collaboration with the MS State Department of Health, UMMC, and the Department of Psychology focused on mental health/domestic violence.
• Explore the usage of Telehealth response for patient remote monitoring.

College of Liberal Arts

• Journalism and Media Studies, via JSU TV and WJSU, are covering COVID19 every day. They broadcast all of Governor Tate Reeves’s briefings on JSU TV, Comcast channel 14. They also broadcast all NPR reports on WJSU FM 88.5. All news briefs from the Governor and Mayor are aired on WJSU FM. The general managers check in every day with updates on the COVID crisis. Also, the Department of Journalism and Media Studies will work with SPH to deliver accurate messages to our identified populations.
• The Community Health Program in the Department of Psychology (DOP) offers tele-health counseling for members of the community in an effort to deal with the stresses and isolation of the current COVID-19 crisis. To make an appointment, individuals are encouraged to call the clinic at (601) 979-3381.
The Department of Psychology is in the process of working on an IRB application regarding HBCU emergency preparedness, COVID-19 and community based outreach.

The Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Speech Communication has begun a project to collect personal narratives and/or oral histories from JSU and other HBCU students. Potentially, it could include a qualitative comparative analysis of students juxtaposed with community members.

The Department of Music is working to provide a community dance class that would address obesity, blood pressure, cardiovascular health, and expose our community to Africana music and dance culture. The department has offered these classes in person and is developing a method to provide them via electronic media.

**College of Science, Engineering & Technology**

- Will produce Personal Protection Equipment, including face masks and face shields, utilizing Current 3-D printing and prototyping technology. These technologies include a: Fortus 400mc 3D Production System, Stratasys U-Print 3-D printer, Stratasys MoJo 3-D printer, Mark Forge IV 3-D printer, Several Hobbyist level 3-D printers (Ultimakers), VLS 6.60 aser Engraving and Cutting Platform, and a ProtoMat S100 Circuit Board Plotter.

**College of Business**

- The Small Business Development Center will work with minority and small businesses (particularly those who are under-banked and/or unbanked) to access any Federal Stimulus aid or grants for which they qualify.

**College of Education and Human Development**

- The Mississippi Urban Research Center (MURC) is collaborating with the Mississippi State Department of Health (Office of Preventive Health and Health Equity) in developing an online survey instrument designed to gain a better understanding of COVID-19 perceptions in the state of Mississippi. Collected data will be utilized by the Mississippi State Department of Health to develop strategies and activities designed to slow the spread of COVID-19 in high risk populations. The Mississippi State Department of Health will be reaching out to JSU to help distribute the survey among its faculty and staff.

- The Mississippi Urban Research Center (MURC) has been participating in the MS NAACP and its community affiliate (OneVoice) “Tele-Town Hall Meetings,” discussing the Coronavirus’ (COVID-19) impact on Mississippi’s communities of color. MURC will be working with OneVoice in conducting community input sessions targeting the City of Jackson via its upcoming comprehensive plan project.

**Division of Graduate Studies**

- Schedule a Latasha Norman Counseling Center Training Session for the Graduate Council and other interested faculty members in order to better assist students during the COVID-19 Crisis.
- Received and accepted invitation to join the R2 HBCU Graduate Deans Forum (first meeting April 2020).
JSU-Online

- JSU Online will join The John N. Gardner Institute on April 29, 2020, on their weekly series “Coronavirus Campus Crisis Virtual Forum Series” to discuss theoretical foundations and pedagogical concerns in distance learning.

- JSU Online participates in the Online Learning Consortium Leadership in Online Mastery Series (March 18 – May 6) which joins leaders in online learning from around the world to develop institutional plans for online learning that provide best practices, tools and resources. This includes several series surrounding implementing effective plans during this pandemic.