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**For Immediate Release**

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**BOARD BACKS INSTITUTION PLANS FOR ONLINE  
INSTRUCTION IN WAKE OF CORONAVIRUS**

The Idaho State Board of Education heard updates Friday from the presidents of Idaho's higher education institutions on plans for campus operations in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health crisis.

The four-year institutions are planning to deliver online instruction, the first virtual classes beginning Monday, March 16 at Boise State University.

Spring Break begins at the University of Idaho next week. Faculty will remain on campus to fine tune online instruction, which will commence at the U of I on Monday, March 23.

Lewis-Clark State College will test its online system early next week and begin online instruction as quickly as possible.

Idaho State University is starting its Spring Break on Monday, earlier than planned. Faculty will finish preparing online instruction for use by students beginning on Monday, March 30.

The institutions are encouraging students to leave campus if possible. Those who have nowhere else to go are allowed to remain in their dorms and food and other services will be made available. The institutions have also created special webpages to update students, faculty, staff and the public on campus efforts developments related to coronavirus.

After hearing briefings from the presidents, the Board approved a motion backing the efforts on all four campuses.

“I think it is very important that the Board publicly and loudly support what all of our presidents and our campuses have done to address this difficult situation,” Board Member Dr. Linda Clark said.

Here are links to the institution websites, the State of Idaho’s official resources page for coronavirus, along with others: <https://boardofed.idaho.gov/coronavirus-covid-19-resources/>

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