Dear Students and Employees:

On Wednesday, March 25, Tuskegee University was notified that an employee had been approved for testing for the novel coronavirus COVID-19. That employee and a student each subsequently have been confirmed positive for COVID-19.

As soon as the employee notified their supervisor of their symptoms, immediate steps were taken. The employee self-quarantined at home and co-workers who had contact with the employee were also asked to vacate their building and observe self-isolation protocols at home. Environmental cleaning and disinfection procedures were both performed in the building following the guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The student who reported positive for COVID-19 returned to campus to retrieve personal items. The residential hall has also undergone environmental cleaning and disinfection procedures following the CDC guidelines.

Both the student and employee do not reside in Macon County and continue observing self-isolation protocols at home. They are also pursuing further screening and medical intervention upon the advice of their respective healthcare provider.

The Alabama Department of Public Health currently does not recommend additional measures beyond those described, but the university will continue to monitor the situation and advise appropriate individuals or groups accordingly should that change.

To limit the risk of on-campus spread, the university launched online instruction on March 23, and began employing remote and staggered staffing assignments — with on-campus staffing limited to essential personnel. Also, only students lacking alternate residential options have been allowed to remain on campus.

As a precaution, the university reminds everyone that vigorous hand-washing and social distancing practices are the most effective means of limiting the spread of COVID-19.

These are trying times for our Tuskegee University family, people across the region, nation and the world. Our focus is on the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we work our way through this difficult period.

For more information about the university’s response to and precautions regarding COVID-19, please visit www.tuskegee.edu/coronavirus.

Ruby L. Perry, DVM, Ph.D., DACVR
Acting President