

# Mississippi State to arrange partial refunds for spring 2020 semester

## Staff Report

Mississippi State University President Mark Keenum announced on Friday, April 10, that current eligible students can receive partial refunds from the spring 2020 semester. See his letter below:

"The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the transition to online classes for the remainder of the Spring 2020 required most of our students to vacate their housing early. Our students and their families have shown extraordinary patience and understanding as MSU and the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning leadership together prepared an appropriate and equitable response to these unprecedented challenges.

These deliberations have been underway at all Mississippi public universities and

I am pleased that a resolution has been reached, as I know you all are.

I am writing today to give you information about how MSU will provide pro-rated housing refunds for eligible students living in university residence halls during Spring 2020. Students enrolled in meal plans with our MSU Dining Services partner, Aramark, will have the remainder of their meal plans rolled over into Fall 2020 unless the student is graduating, in which case, the student will receive a pro-rated refund on the unused portion of their plan.

Parking & Transit Services will provide pro-rated parking refunds for all commuter students and students who did not remain on campus to live in university residence halls after March 16, 2020. We will appreciate your patience as we work to facilitate these processes.

All refunds will be applied to students' MSU accounts and will first apply to any current outstanding charges.

Any unused balance will be distributed to students via direct deposit or refund check. All late payments and financing charges will be waived through the end of the semester.

### HOUSING REFUND INFORMATION

Students who did not remain on campus to live in university residence halls after March 16, 2020 will receive a pro-rated refund of their Spring 2020 housing contract. Students who withdrew from the university before March 16, 2020 will not be issued a refund. Additionally, students whose housing was paid from institutional scholarships, MSU foundation scholarships, or MSU Athletics will not receive a refund. Housing refunds will be applied to student accounts by May 10, 2020.

### MSU DINING INFORMATION

Spring 2020 Meal Plans will be transferred to the Fall 2020 Semester:

- Ultimate Meal Plan holders will receive either 100

block meals based on the number of days left in the semester as of March 16, 2020, or a pro-rated amount from last date the Meal Plan was used, if the date was after March 16, 2020. All remaining flex dollars will transfer for use in Fall 2020. They will expire on the last day of the Fall 2020 Semester.

- All other Meal Plans with remaining block meal and/or flex dollar balances after March 16, 2020 (or from last date Meal Plan was used, if the date was after March 16, 2020), will be rolled over to the Fall 2020 Semester. They will expire on the last day of the Fall 2020 Semester.

- Block Meals and flex dollars will be loaded onto your Student ID card on August 15, 2020, and you will not need to take any action to receive this credit.

- Graduating seniors who are not returning in the Fall 2020 Semester will receive a pro-rated refund for the value of their block meal and flex dollar balances, based on the last day of use.

- Refunds will be processed by May 10, 2020.

If students have special circumstances and would like to make a request, they can

complete the request form here, <https://form.jotform.com/msudining/springform>.

I sincerely hope this plan meets your expectations as the university sought to achieve a balance between applicable state laws and fairness to our wonderful students."

Mark E. Keenum, President Mississippi State University

## COVID-19 testing is available at UMMC Holmes County, Grenada

### Press Release

Now at UMMC Grenada and UMMC Holmes County in Lexington, drive-through COVID-19 specimen collections will be done via screening on the C Spire Health UMMC Virtual COVID-19

Triage telehealth app, or by calling 601-496-7200. This is the procedure right now for collections at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds in Jackson and for a number of one-day pop-up mobile collections around the state.

The collections at UMMC Grenada and UMMC Holmes County will be 9 a.m.-noon Monday through Friday. It's by appointment only and it's free; those who have been screened as being high risk of infection will give a specimen sample, via a nose swab, without exiting their vehicle.

During the screening using the app, or the phone number, a medical provider will determine the patient's level of risk for having COVID-19 based on their symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath or sore throat. Hours for the app and the phone number are 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Anyone found to be high-risk for having coronavirus will receive an appointment for testing at Grenada or Holmes County, whichever is closes to them. At the collection sites, providers wearing protective gear will come to the vehicle and get a swab. UMMC will contact them with their results.

### MEMBER



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## MVSU to host virtual commencement exercise for spring 2020 graduates

### Press Release

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated postponement of the traditional graduation ceremonies set for May 9, Mississippi Valley State University is pleased to announce plans to recognize its Spring 2020 graduates during a Virtual Commencement Exercise.

The online commencement is set to stream on the University's Facebook and YouTube pages at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 9. Links to both sites will be posted on the homepage of the University's webpage ([www.mvsu.edu](http://www.mvsu.edu)) later this month.

"Bidding our seniors farewell one final time before they venture off into the world is one of my greatest joys as a University President," said MVSU President Dr. Jerryl Briggs, Sr.

"After making the difficult decision to postpone graduation, I challenged our com-

mencement committee to come up with an alternative that would allow us to celebrate our graduates. Together, we decided that hosting a virtual ceremony would be the safest way to honor our student on their special day."

During the virtual event, Briggs will address the graduates before joining MVSU Provost, Dr. Kathie Stromile Golden, in conferring degrees to both graduate and undergraduate students.

The Spring 2020 Golden Graduates, members of MVSU's Class of 1970, will also be recognized in honor of their 50th anniversary as MVSU alumni.

In addition to the virtual graduation ceremony, MVSU graduates will also have the opportunity to participate in a traditional commencement exercise later this year. More information regarding that ceremony is forthcoming.

## MVSU to offer partial refunds for select spring 2020 student expenses

### Press Release

President Dr. Jerryl Briggs, Sr. announced on Friday, April 10, that Mississippi Valley State University (MVSU) will be providing partial refunds for select Spring 2020 expenses to eligible MVSU students.

"For the past several weeks, we have worked diligently to accommodate our students, faculty, staff and University community while adhering to guidelines and regulations set forth by our governing bodies," said Briggs in a memo to the MVSU community.

"Today, we received additional directions from the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) regarding the issuance of refunds for student expenditures. Subsequently, I am pleased to announce that we will be providing partial refunds for select Spring 2020 expenses to eligible MVSU students."

Per guidance from the IHL, the prorated refunds will be issued to students who paid for Spring 2020 expenses, including University-spon-

sored housing, meal plans and parking fees.

The refund will cover the period of March 16 through May 8.

Each eligible student will receive the prorated refund to their student account.

Scholarship payments will not count toward fees paid by students.

"As we continue to navigate through these unprecedented times, we hope that this gesture will provide some welcomed relief to our students and their families," said Briggs.

### TRINITY M.B.C.

Trinity M.B. Church will host its Annual Library Program at 11 a.m. on Sunday, April 19 during morning service.

4-9,16

### ADDICTION HELP

Narconon reminds readers about the dangers of fentanyl, an incredibly potent chemical that has contrib-

uted to the increase in overdose deaths across America. Many don't know that one thing that makes fentanyl so dangerous is the it can be absorbed in the system through skin contact, leading to a potentially fatal overdose. Narconon can help you take the steps to overcome addiction in your family. Call today for free screenings or referrals at 1-800-431-1754. 4-9,16

### OUR HOUSE INC.

Monthly online chat is available for sexual assault victims/survivors in the Mississippi Delta area, the third Monday of each month. Safe Online Space (SOS) for Healing Conversations, Monday, April, 20, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Visit [www.ourhousevoices.com](http://www.ourhousevoices.com)

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In Loving Memory of  
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his  
**100th BIRTHDAY**

We celebrate and remember the 100 years since you were born; because you're now with our Savior there is no need for us to mourn.

While the years will keep rolling by, our love for you will remain, we know we are the products of the family from whence you came and will smile from deep within at each thought or mention of your name.

The memories of the time we shared are forever etched in our hearts . . . your laughter and sweet spirit from us will never part.

We will be forever grateful for your wisdom, support and love; and although we cannot see you, we can be certain you're watching over us from above.

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grandchildren,  
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