

March 17, 2020

11:00 a.m.

The health, safety and well-being of the Brescia community is our first priority. Today, based on recent information provided by the Middlesex-London Health Unit and our federal and provincial governments, Brescia will shift to a modified services model effective Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. This will allow sufficient time for members of our community to prepare and adjust our services as needed.

I understand that this can be a stressful and uncertain time for all members of our community. I can assure you that Brescia will continue to support our students, faculty and staff through this challenge.

The last few days have given rise to many questions and concerns about the continuing operation of the Brescia on-campus community. COVID-19 is spreading around the world at a rapid pace and we are working to make the right decisions to protect our community while remaining true to our identity as a university. We have determined that effective 5:00 p.m. March 18<sup>th</sup> and until further notice, we will move to a modified services model for Brescia's on-campus services.

To provide you with additional information on what "modified services" means, please note the following adjustments to services:

Residence will remain open. Where possible, students are encouraged to consider moving home if travel and logistics support this. All residence students will receive a refund schedule to support this decision. Details will be sent in a separate email.

Food Services, including the Mercato, will remain open for those students who continue to live on our campus.

Virtual support services for our students, faculty and staff will be available online and we encourage our students to take advantage of this, including:

- academic advising and career appointments
- case management support
- library and research consultations
- Brescia's Writing Centre
- faculty office hours

The Hive will close to in-person consultation, but can be reached via phone (519-858-5151) or email ([brescia@uwo.ca](mailto:brescia@uwo.ca)), Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.



The Beryl Ivey Library will align with Western Library closures; effective 5:00 p.m. today (March 17<sup>th</sup>) will close to in-person service. Our library team is working to move support services online, please consult their website for updates.

Our dedicated staff and faculty are working tirelessly to provide continuity of all programming and technical support as we transition to an online format. Brescia's working group continues to think of new ways to engage and support each of our students through the final weeks of their academic term.

As this is a rapidly evolving situation, I encourage you to visit Brescia's COVID-19 website for the most current information on matters related to Brescia's operations.

I appreciate the compassion, flexibility and resiliency that the Brescia community displays on a daily basis and I am grateful for your shared commitment to supporting the health and well-being of those around us. Our community is strengthened through these extraordinary times; in the words of St. Angela Merici, "if you all stand united in heart, you will be strong in adversities."

Sincerely,  
Susan Mumm, D. Phil, FRHistS