This message is for graduate students who anticipate having a graduate assistantship in Fall 2020. I’m writing to inform you about the process for requesting accommodations and modifications in your GA activities if needed based on issues related to COVID-19. Please share this message with your GA supervisor to help us make sure they also receive this information.

Some of you may be concerned about interacting with students in the classroom or people in an office or about working in a lab or other research setting with other people, particularly if you have a medical condition that makes you more susceptible to the effects of COVID-19. In consultation with General Counsel, Medical Management, and the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, the Provost’s Office has developed a process for managing requests for COVID-19-related accommodations. Such an accommodation, which could include the option to teach online or perform GA responsibilities remotely, may occur for a set period of time for graduate assistants who are at higher risk for severe illness as defined by the CDC or who live with someone who is at higher risk.

The process for requesting accommodations and modifications of GA responsibilities is outlined on the COVID-19 section of the Graduate Education website. GAs should make their initial request with their GA supervisor before submitting the provided form to coronavirusmodification@mail.wvu.edu.

If you have questions about this process, you should direct them to your GA supervisor, your graduate program director or chair, coronavirusmodification@mail.wvu.edu, or the Office of Graduate Education and Life (304-293-7173, GradEd@mail.wvu.edu).

While WVU is taking all the necessary precautions, there’s a chance that any of us could become ill at any time. Should you become sick, you will need to work with your GA supervisor to make alternative work arrangements. As a student, you also will need to work with your instructors and advisor to determine how you can continue your academic activities. See the relevant information for students on the Return to Campus website.

Thank you for your involvement in the teaching, research, and service missions of WVU as a graduate assistant during these challenging times. We appreciate your commitment to helping ensure the health and safety of the entire WVU community.

Katherine Karraker
Associate Provost for Graduate Academic Affairs