



3624 Market Street
Suite 2 West
Philadelphia, PA 19104
(267) 284-5000
www.msche.org
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TO: Institutions with Spring 2020 Virtual Site Visits (Evaluation and Follow-Up)
Peer Evaluators Conducting Spring 2020 Virtual Site Visits
State and System Observers Participating in Spring 2020 Virtual Site Visits
FROM: Christy L. Faison, Senior Vice President for Accreditation Services
RE: Virtual Site Visit Training
DATE: March 24, 2020

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education continues to be concerned about the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and understands that this is a difficult time for our institutions, all students, faculty, staff, and administration, and for the communities our institutions serve. The Commission has received additional guidance from the United States Department of Education (USDE) outlining temporary flexibility to allow accreditors to substitute on-site reviews with virtual site visits in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) interruptions.

In anticipation of such flexibilities, the Commission had already approved of virtual site visits and communicated with institutions and teams to inquire about their willingness and capacity to host virtual site visits in lieu of on-site visits for spring 2020. The Commission limited the option to host virtual site visits, and virtual site visits were not made available to applicant institutions, institutions on probation, or those institutions with concerns that necessitated on-site review.

MSCHE has provided a recorded webinar to assist institutions and evaluators conducting virtual site visits. The Virtual Site Visit Training Module addresses the temporary flexibility provided by the United States Department of Education to address coronavirus (COVID-19) impacted institutions and accrediting agencies. Please note that this recorded webinar is a supplement to training already provided to Team Chairs and peer evaluators and does not negate any previous training. If after reviewing the training module you would like to reconsider your decision to conduct a virtual site visit, please contact the MSCHE Vice President Liaison immediately.

To access the Virtual Site Visit Webinar, visit www.msche.org/covid-19/ where you will find an accordion menu that reveals more detailed viewing information.

Additional Resources

MSCHE: www.msche.org/covid-19/

U.S. Department of Education: www.ed.gov/coronavirus

Download a pdf of this memo at <https://go.msche.org/20200324-virtual-site-visit-training-memo>