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Rhodes Community,

I am writing to give you a campus update. Although we are grateful for the progress being made in the city, we had very much hoped that the situation would be improving even faster than it is. However, the latest word from Memphis Light Gas & Water this afternoon is that the boil water order will likely not be lifted until mid-week, pending results of MLGW water testing.

This means we will need to continue virtual learning for the rest of this week. Please understand that, provided the MLGW water tests come back negative, and the boil water order is lifted, our facilities team will need approximately two full days, working around the clock, to check and clear the campus for occupancy - a day in residence halls and a day in academic buildings. All potable water systems including faucets at sinks, tubs, showers, and drinking fountains must be checked and thoroughly flushed before we can reopen residence halls and academic buildings.

This decision has been extremely difficult, as we all want to return to campus as soon as possible, but because this is a Memphis infrastructure issue, there are so many factors outside of our control.

We will continue to house and feed our students who have been temporarily relocated to area hotels. We plan to move them back to campus residence halls on Friday afternoon and will be communicating with them directly about these arrangements as the week progresses. Students who returned home or are staying with friends can return to campus as early as Friday or sometime over the weekend, according to what works best for their schedule. In-person classes will resume on Monday, January 29. The dining halls will re-open for service at 4:30 pm on Friday to accommodate our students who are moving back to campus.

Despite these challenges, our spring semester classes are underway and going strong. I want to thank our incredible faculty and staff who are working so hard to give our students a robust experience, and we encourage all students to continue to engage fully in their classes. Students, thank you for your resilience and determination to make the very best of a challenging situation.

If any student has a particular need or concern, we ask that you email us at president@rhodes.edu as soon as possible so we can direct that request or concern to the appropriate person.

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flexibility, and grace.

Thank you for being part of the Rhodes community.

President Jennifer Collins

Rhodes College

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