Q: Since campuses are closed, how will I be able to contact Veterans Services?
A: We will be offering virtual services for students during our regular business hours Monday-Thursday, 7:30 am-5:00 pm, and Fri. 8 am-11:45 am. Please email veteransservices@butte.edu from your Butte College student email and include your student ID number with your question.

Q. How will going to online classes affect my GI Bill?
A. Students will not be affected by the change to online classes. You will continue to receive your MHA for the classes currently enrolled.

Q. What is the guideline from the VA concerning Post 9/11 students?
A. If the change from training in-residence to online or hybrid classes happens during the semester, your benefit payments will remain the same for the rest of the semester per Senate Bill 3503.

Q. What happens if the summer and fall semesters are converted to online classes?
A. Based on the new law, Post 9/11 GI Bill students who pursue resident courses converted to an online modality solely due to COVID 19 will continue to receive the MHA rate for resident training. The law only authorizes this special authority from March 1, 2020, to December 21, 2020.

Q. What happens if Butte College shuts down for the rest of the semester?
A. If Butte College temporarily closes and ceases all instruction because of an emergency situation, VA may continue benefit payments (including the Monthly Housing Allowance under the Post-9/11 GI Bill) for up to 4 weeks during a 12-month period.
Q. What happens if my class is on an extended break due to COVID-19?
A. Our office must notify the VA of the extended break and if it changes the end date of the program. Current law does not allow protection for more than 28 days.

Q. What happens if my class is not able to be converted to an online modality?
A. If the educational institution remains partially open (continues to provide training to some students) but must discontinue training to students enrolled in select programs or individual classes, the school must report changes for the students whose training is stopped. Current law only provides protection for a stoppage in training when the school ceases operations completely (temporary or permanent).

Q. Will the VA take into consideration the issues caused by COVID-19?
A. We are hopeful the VA will make exceptions due to COVID-19. We are currently monitoring a bill that could provide some relief.  

Q. What if I need to drop all of my classes due to the COVID-19? Will I have to repay any of my VA benefits?
A: Yes, there is a possibility you will have a debt with the VA. The VA will not pay for class past the last day of attendance. Students are asked to contact Admissions & Records or their academic counselor to request an excused withdrawal (EW) due to COVID-19.

If the VA paid your tuition the college must return the tuition to the VA.
Q: What if I receive an excused withdrawal (EW) from classes I dropped due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will getting an EW affect my eligibility to receive future VA benefits? *
A: No, students who are issued EW’s as a result of withdrawing from coursework will not have those courses counted against them. EW grades issued for the Spring 2020 term will not be included in the quantitative calculation for PACE and will not impact a student’s ability to receive VA benefits in the future.

Q. Is my school certifying official reporting the change to the VA?
A. Yes, when a change has been made to enrollment. Please contact our office before dropping classes. We can discuss your options.

Q. If my Labs (science courses) are transferred to an online format, does it apply as an “online lab?” The school I am transferring to does not accept online labs.
A. Currently, we do not have a determination on how this will be reflected. Contact your transfer school for verification on this matter.

Q. How will the seven days to pay policy affect me if I can’t get to campus?
A. Butte College will temporarily remove the policy. Notifications will go out ten days before restarting the policy again.

Q. I am a Veteran and would like to use priority registration. What do I need to do?
A. Veterans can qualify for priority registration by completing these steps:
1) Apply for Butte College: http://butte.edu/newandreturning/
2) Verify your Veteran Status once you have a Butte College ID#: contact veteransservices@butte.edu
3) Complete the CAP tool: http://www.butte.edu/assessment/cap/
   - You will need your login information
4) Complete Counseling Appointment for a “Veterans Education Plan”
   Contact: veteransservices@butte.edu for a phone appointment.
5) Complete online orientation Available on 03/23/2020
   https://www.butte.edu/services/.orientation/index.html
6) Contact the Veterans Services office to verify completion:
   veteransservices@butte.edu