

February 28, 2020

Dear Students, Faculty & Staff,

We have been closely monitoring the concerns related to [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\)](#) and we are taking every precaution to keep our community safe. In order to minimize risk, we want to ensure the NCC community is aware, knowledgeable, and prepared.

### **What do we know?**

Health authorities continue to carefully monitor the virus and provide routine updates on necessary precautions. Given that there are limited cases of the virus in the United States, there is no need at this time to cancel school or social events, and [according to the CDC](#) there is no need for students or staff to wear masks.

### **Prevention**

There are currently no vaccines available to protect against this virus. The [New York State Department of Health](#) (DOH) recommends the following ways to minimize the spread of all respiratory viruses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

### **Symptoms**

To date it is believed that COVID-19 may cause mild to severe respiratory symptoms such as cough, fever, trouble breathing and pneumonia. CDC believes at this time that symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus. It is not clear how easily the virus spreads between people. Person to person spread is thought to mainly occur via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how the flu and other respiratory illnesses spread. The CDC currently has healthcare providers monitoring only those individuals who have traveled from mainland China within 14 days or have had close contact with a confirmed positive patient.

If you have been to Wuhan City, China (or affected areas) or have been in close contact with someone who has been infected and feel sick with fever, cough or trouble breathing you should:

- Seek medical care from your healthcare provider or nearest Emergency Room right away. Call ahead and tell them about your travel and symptoms.
- Contact the NCC Student Health Office at 516.572.7123 to advise the College of your recent travels to China or other affected areas.
- Avoid contact with others. Stay home, except for seeking medical care.
- Avoid further travel until the illness resolves.



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As always, the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff remain our primary concern. The College may have students attending classes who have traveled to various areas in Asia, including China. Students should not be excluded from classes or any College activities based on race, country of origin, or recent travel (or a family member's travel), including to any part of China. The College may only exclude a student from attendance if a local health department informs the College that a student must comply with a quarantine order or the student is symptomatic of a communicable or infectious disease. Concerns about COVID-19 should focus on public health and safety, NOT used as an excuse for anti-Asian racism or xenophobia. At NCC we are one community and we stick together – Nassau Strong.

This is an evolving global situation and we will continue to update you when pertinent information becomes available and could impact the NCC community. Please visit [https://www.ncc.edu/campuservices/health\\_services/covid.shtml](https://www.ncc.edu/campuservices/health_services/covid.shtml) or <https://www.suny.edu/health-alert/> for additional information and resources.

Sincerely,

Student Health Services