

March 16, 2020

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff,

We have heard from a number of you that some clarification is needed on a few items and we want to address those here today. As we have said in previous communications it is imperative that we all remain knowledgeable and armed with the facts as we navigate through this rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation. I encourage you to continue to ask the questions you have. We hear you and we will address them as quickly as we can.

In addition to what we are covering here today, we will be adding a more thorough FAQ section to the website in the coming days. It will include more Academic, Student Services, and Campus Operations specific information.

### **Face to Face Classes Suspension: What does this mean?**

Face to face classes are currently suspended until March 23<sup>rd</sup>. This means that your face to face class will not meet in person prior to March 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are quickly working to implement a plan to transition many courses to remote instruction and that will begin prior to March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Most classes will be transitioning to distance learning education but not all can, such as laboratory sessions. In those cases, we are working on a plan to lessen class size through alternative schedules in observance of social distancing.

Faculty members should be corresponding with students to share what courses might look like moving forward and to determine what students' remote capabilities would be if the course was moved to remote instruction. To help assist us to determine the best way to instruct remotely we are asking students to take a quick [survey](#), just once, to determine remote capabilities. The feedback from this survey will directly impact the tools utilized for remote instruction.

### **COVID-19: How do I know if I am at risk or have been exposed with a confirmed positive individual that is part of the NCC Community?**

Many of you have questions specific to knowing if you are at risk given your potential exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Please note the following, based on guidance provided by our on staff medical physician. If you are aware of an individual who is confirmed COVID19 positive AND you have had a close interaction with them, such as a meeting or a prolonged conversation within 6 feet of them, then this is considered an "at risk exposure". Someone who is an "at risk exposure" should self-quarantine for 14 days and seek medical attention if they develop an illness. Doctors are currently not testing any individuals who have not exhibited symptoms due to the fact that the chance of an asymptomatic individual spreading the illness is minimal. Most individuals will exhibit symptoms within 7 days of exposure, with the average being 4 days.

Specifically, when the College receives notice that an individual is COVID19 positive, we work with the Nassau County Department of Health (NCDOH) to provide the NCDOH with the

names/contact information of infected individual's classmates and professors. The NCDOH then gets in touch with those individuals and provides instructions (such as for isolation or quarantine, as may be appropriate).

**The Governor mandated this morning that all gatherings with more than 50 people in attendance be canceled. What does this mean for Commencement and our Athletic events?**

To ensure the health and safety of our NCC community, we made the decision last week to cancel, reschedule, or repurpose all NCC sponsored or on-campus events with plans for more than 50 individuals in attendance through April. We understand how much time and energy is spent organizing these events and we hope that many of these events will be rescheduled to a later time. For example, the President's Inauguration and NCC Foundation Gala is being rescheduled for the Fall.

In line with this directive, and aligned with the NJCAA's decision, we have also made the difficult decision to cancel all athletic [spring season competitions](#) and formal practices have been suspended indefinitely. This will not affect our student's athletic eligibility. As of now Commencement is still scheduled, however as we all know this situation changes daily and we will take whatever measures are necessary to maintain the health and safety of our NCC community.

We encourage everyone to continue to check the [website](#) and your emails for updates. We are working closely under the guidance of State and County officials as well as our SUNY officials and providing updates as quickly as possible based on their guidance.

Regards,

Jermaine F. Williams, Ed.D.  
President – Nassau Community College