

Dear Students and Colleagues,

HCCC cares about your health and the health of your family. Please know that Coronavirus (COVID-19) is the topic of daily analysis and consultation by a broad representative task force at the College.

We are monitoring the situation and continually strategizing about actions to keep our campuses as safe and healthy as possible.

The college-wide task force, convened by President Reber, is meeting weekly to collectively stay on top of emerging developments, to make adjustments in our practices to keep our community safe and well, to communicate clearly and regularly, and to have a decision-making process as dynamic as the situation. Out of prudence and a spirit of preparedness, several subcommittees have been established with the objective of identifying best practices regarding Academic, Business, and Health contingency plans in the event that we would need to close the campus as well as the subsequent coming back on line.

Please be aware that the task force is in contact with the Hudson Regional Health Commission (HRHC), the New Jersey Department of Health, and North Hudson Community Action Corporation (NHCAC) and is monitoring information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Importantly, we have created a webpage to serve as a clearinghouse for campus information related to Coronavirus. This page will be updated regularly. It will include links to CDC information, to campus policies, and other information that you may find useful.

<http://www.hccc.edu/Coronavirus-Resources/>

We are aware of how difficult this situation is for many of our students. We will continue to address student concerns and ensure that a plan is in place that does not penalize any student for missing class or assignments due to illness and provides seamless continuation of academic programs.

At the moment, the most authoritative voices tell us that we can go about our business normally here in New Jersey, using precautions we should typically take in flu season, and that is what is happening.

Here are everyday actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:

- Be vigilant about washing your hands 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
- Do not travel while sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) then throw the tissue in the trash
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- If you feel sick, seek medical care right away.

We will stay informed about recent occurrences and best practices in order to keep our community informed and safe. This will include participation on state-wide conference calls, webinars, and local, state and regional meetings specifically focused on preparing organizations for COVID-19. Additionally, Kathleen Smith-Wenning serves as the college's liaison with the Hudson Regional Health Commission.

For now, life at HCCC is carrying on essentially as usual, and we encourage all to do their utmost not to let their worries get the better of them.

If you have questions and or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either of us or visit our Cononavirus Information page.

Thank you!

Co-chairs HCCC Coronavirus Task Force,

Kathleen Smith-Wenning

Darryl Jones

Thank you!

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