

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Christopher M. Reber, Ph.D.



Wednesday February 26, 2020

Dear HCCC Community Members,

In a continuing effort to keep our community informed, HCCC would like to provide the following update on the Coronavirus, COVID-19.

HCCC continues to monitor the situation through the Office of the New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education, the New Jersey Department of Health, and the Hudson Health Regional Health Commission. There are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey.

The Hudson Regional Health Commission (HRHC) is leading Hudson County's efforts in addressing COVID-19. Please see communication below from the HRHC Executive Director. HCCC has designated Kathleen Smith-Wenning, MA, RRT, Director of Health Related Programs at Hudson County Community College in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences, to attend and participate in briefings on the situation.

The New Jersey Department of Health and Center for Disease Control (CDC) has provided guidance regarding the current outbreak. If students, staff, and faculty become aware of the possible symptoms, avoid public spaces and seek treatment immediately. As with all illnesses, simple steps can help prevent exposure and spread:

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60% to 95% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

We recognize this is an evolving issue. For more information, please click on the information links below:

- The New Jersey Department of Health has opened a coronavirus hotline to educate the community on the disease, which can be reached at 1-800-222-1222. Department of Health website: <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>
- CDC's website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>
- External questions will be streamlined through one email address: NCOV@doh.nj.gov
- Public Call Center (NJPIES) – 1-800-222-1222

From: Carrie Nawrocki <cnawrocki@hudsonregionalhealth.org>

Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 3:55 PM

Subject: COVID-19 Update and Resources

To Hudson County partners:

There is an expanding global outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus, COVID-19. While most COVID-19 cases outside of China have been associated with travel to or from China, community spread is being detected in a growing number of countries.

At this time, there are no cases in New Jersey and there have not been any deaths in the United States. However, the CDC has suggested that current global circumstances suggest it is likely that this virus will cause a pandemic.

This is a good time to start thinking about ways you can prepare at home and at work in case COVID-19 does become pandemic. Please refer to the attached documents for updated COVID-19 information:

- 1) Updated COVID-19 Fact Sheet (this and other resources are also available in Spanish and simplified Chinese at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html>)
- 2) COVID-19 Stop the Spread of Germs flyer
- 3) Pandemic Preparedness Planning for you and your family

The Hudson Regional Health Commission website(<https://www.hudsonregional.org/coronavirus>) is another resource with the most current COVID 19 situation summary, including cases, information for travelers and updated guidance from the CDC.

We will continue to send updated information as the situation evolves.

Sincerely,
Carrie Nawrocki

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