

March 13, 2020

Dear New England College Community,

As promised, I write to offer the latest update regarding the College and the COVID-19 virus issue. Since my last communication, the College's task force and the senior team have continued to monitor what is happening in the state and communities around us. We have participated in calls and webinars with the NH Department of Health and Human Services, professional organizations sharing updates and best practices, and have received updates from the CDC and other state agencies. As you know from news and media outlets, New Hampshire has a low number of cases as compared with the rest of the country.

We have limited non-essential travel for the entire community including canceling student trips, athletic trips, and faculty/staff travel. We have cancelled larger events and gatherings. Dining facilities have adopted appropriate practices of serving, using disposable plates, utensils, and cups, as well as increased cleaning practices. The facilities staff has continued more frequent and intense cleaning methods throughout our campuses. The café in the Lyons Center will close at the end of the day so that dining services can focus their energies on ensuring extra precautions in the Gilmore dining center.

At this time, we are implementing the following updates to our policies and procedures to create social distancing as recommended by health care professionals:

- Only guests approved for essential College function will be allowed on campus until further notice. Students are not permitted to have non-student guests on campus and in the residence halls.
- There are no on-campus athletic events until at least April 1st. If athletic events take place after that date, fans will not be permitted to attend. We are in communication with our competitors and athletic conference about the status of our spring athletic season.
- All programs and events involving gatherings of people are suspended on campus until further notice. Off-campus shuttles are suspended.
- Our entire community should practice social distancing including limiting off-campus travel (including faculty/staff/commuting students limiting social interactions when at home/off-campus).
- It is imperative that everyone continues to practice the personal care and cleaning habits we have mentioned in previous communications including washing hands frequently, not touching your face, properly covering coughs and sneezes, and cleaning surfaces frequently and thoroughly.
- Anyone who is feeling ill or experiencing symptoms should not come to campus. Manchester students, commuting students, and faculty/staff should seek immediate care from a local provider if they are experiencing flu or COVID-19 related symptoms. Henniker students should call the Wellness Center prior to arriving to the Center if they are symptomatic.

The task force and senior team will continue to monitor this situation hourly. As we understand this situation is anxiety provoking, our goal is to continue our educational mission as safely as possible. While we will continue to provide updates on Tuesdays and Fridays, we will certainly contact the community sooner if further action is needed or to provide appropriate updates. It is important to remember that most of the institutions that have taken action to move to virtual classrooms or close campuses are just starting or are in the middle of their spring breaks. Given we have already experienced our spring break, at this time we are following the recommendations of state health officials. I would like to thank everyone for their continued cooperation and heightened attention to the precautions we have communicated.

Sincerely,

Michele D. Perkins, President