

March 3, 2020

Good morning, I am writing today to update our community regarding COVID-19/the Coronavirus. The College's senior team, Medical Director Laura Anderson, and I continue to monitor the situation around the country and in New Hampshire. We continue to receive updates from the New Hampshire Public Health Department and the Center for Disease Control. As of the time of this message, there is one confirmed case in Grafton County. Still we are continuing to prepare for the potential that this virus will affect our communities.

As we stated in our previous communication and as we have done in the past with other global health issues, we will continue to rely on the experts at the CDC and New Hampshire Public Health Department to help guide our decision making. If any student/faculty/staff returns from a country or area affected by the virus and they develop a fever or flu-like symptoms during the first 14-days back, we will communicate with the New Hampshire Public Health Department to determine next steps. Working with today's recommendations, that individual would be isolated, tested, and monitored for 14 days off campus at a medical facility. It is important to remember that Coronavirus appears to most seriously impact those over the age of 60, the chronically ill, and those with respiratory diseases. Thus far, it has much less life-threatening consequences on college-aged students and young adults.

NEC will continue with its traditional flu policy wherein we ask anyone with a fever to stay away from campus until they are fever-free without medication for at least 24 hours. Residential students, who live too far away to go home while experiencing the flu/fever, will be quarantined on campus and closely monitored by Wellness Center staff. Everyone should continue to practice flu-season safety by washing hands thoroughly, covering your cough, refraining from touching your face, disinfecting all surfaces, and refraining from sharing drinks/food. We will update the community as needed.

Sincerely,

Michele Perkins, EdD
President