

March 6, 2020

Dear New England College Community,

I write to provide an update on the College's work in confronting the challenges we may face relating to the COVID-19/Coronavirus. Given the tremendous amount of attention the media has paid to this virus and the preparations that colleges like ours take to ensure community safety. I believe it is particularly important to share the work we are doing as our students return from Spring Break.

First, I have directed the Senior Team to convene a special task force to prepare and respond to any issues related to the potential impact of the virus on our campus community. The next task force meeting is scheduled for Monday morning.

Second, the Student Affairs Office has dramatically increased their communications to the community regarding appropriate measures each of us should take to remain healthy in the midst of this crisis. Relying on best practices as outlined by the New Hampshire Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control, the medical staff in the Wellness Center is taking all precautions to address any issues that students may present related to the flu and Coronavirus. I strongly encourage anyone who feels symptomatic or not well to immediately contact the Wellness Center. In addition, I am also asking all instructional faculty to make every accommodation for students who miss class for medical reasons.

Third, the Academic Affairs team is planning meetings for the coming week with the Faculty Executive Committee, followed by meetings with the full faculty to review contingency planning. I know the faculty will continue to be supportive of our students.

Finally, the Senior Team and I are committed to communicate, as needed, with the community as circumstances warrant. New England College remains open and operating with the appropriate vigilance. The College continues to work with the New Hampshire Department of Health, the CDC, the New Hampshire Department of Education, and our accreditor, the New England Commission of Higher Education to inform our decisions.

Thank you for your role in promoting healthy practices that will limit the spread of the flu and other illnesses. For a refresher on these practices, please see the CDC's recommendations here: [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html).

Sincerely,

Michele Perkins, EdD
President