

To: Montgomery College Community

From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President

Subject: **COVID-19 Infection Reported on Campus, Conversation with Leadership (Update #82)**

Date: September 9, 2020

Good afternoon. As I know you are aware, the College has taken many precautions to avoid the transmission of coronavirus on our campuses. Yesterday, the College was notified by one of our students that they had tested positive for COVID-19 on Saturday, September 5. We have learned that the student was at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus on Tuesday, September 1, and Friday, September 4, in the Health Sciences Center Building (HC). All students enrolled in the class with this individual were contacted within 24 hours. Employees with possible close contact have also been notified. If the College learns that this person had face-to-face contact with others, those individuals will also be contacted by the dean of student affairs—which would notify any students—or by the Offices of Human Resources and Strategic Talent Management, which would notify any employees. Facilities workers and public safety workers who may have been in the affected space are being informed and given further direction about health protocols. The College's priority at this moment is to inform anyone who may have had direct exposure to this person, so that they can follow up with proper health protocols.

Contact Tracing

For contact tracing purposes, these people may also be reached by the state or Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). They will be asked to quarantine for 14 days, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The class in which the person is enrolled has been suspended for in-person meetings for 14 days, but will continue in virtual format during this time. Anyone who receives a call from "MD COVID" or 240-466-4488, please answer the phone so that contact tracers can provide further directions.

Facilities Response

The classroom of concern in this case has been closed off and thoroughly disinfected by College facilities staff. Their cleaning processes followed the guidelines provided by the CDC and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), including back-pack sprayers with EPA-approved disinfectants and restroom power washers. Detailed cleaning of small surfaces, such as computer keyboards, light switches, and door handles was also performed. In the interest of protecting our cleaning crews, the facilities team members wear Tyvek suits, face masks, gloves, and face shields while disinfecting.

Personal Precautions and Safety

As we know, the coronavirus is highly contagious and can be very serious. If you have symptoms of the virus, please contact your health care provider. The College continues to work diligently to prevent the spread of the coronavirus while holding a very small number of in-person classes. For more details on what precautions are in place, please visit MC's [coronavirus page](#). To report an exposure to COVID-19, please contact MC's Office of Public Safety at 240-567-3333 or EnvironmentalSafety@montgomerycollege.edu. Further questions about this incident can be referred to MC's Coronavirus Advisory Team at publicsafety@montgomerycollege.edu. Montgomery County's DHHS can also be reached at 240-777-0311. If you need a COVID-19 test, [please see this schedule](#) of testing sites in Montgomery County.

Please remember, washing hands frequently, wearing face coverings, and practicing physical distancing are proven deterrents to the spread of the virus. Please continue to use these methods and maintain awareness of communications from Montgomery College if you are coming to a campus regularly.

As we continue this journey with COVID in our midst, the College will inform the community about important protocols and resources related to our response. We will also continue to hold regular Conversations with Leadership to address evolving issues. Our next one is scheduled for Thursday, September 24, at 2 p.m. We welcome questions on all topics at ResilientMC@montgomerycollege.edu.

Until next time, stay safe.