

**To: Montgomery College Community**

**From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President**

**Subject: Coronavirus Update**

**Date: March 9, 2020**

As you know, Montgomery College is closely monitoring advice from the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) regarding COVID-19, a novel coronavirus. College leadership groups, as well as the Montgomery College Coronavirus Advisory Team, are meeting regularly to provide timely and accurate information and coordination.

Early Monday morning, one of our students sent a message to the MC public safety email inbox to disclose that they had been exposed to one or more people exhibiting flu-like symptoms, one of whom is hospitalized. This student complains of similar symptoms. It is not known if the hospitalized person has been tested for COVID-19. Following the guidelines of Montgomery County DHHS, the College advised the student to remain home and consult a health care provider. The student has been in communication with course faculty. The College has communicated this information to the Montgomery County DHHS and will follow up with any instructions that we receive.

At this time, DHHS has not advised any changes to class gatherings or standard operations. Classes will continue to meet with the assumption that students and faculty will continue to follow health protocols: wash hands frequently, avoid handshakes, and avoid touching your face. If you are sick, stay home and seek treatment as needed. If you stay home due to a fever, wait 24 hours after symptoms have subsided to return. We will continue to monitor guidance from DHHS as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and will convey it to the community when we receive it.

This is an evolving situation, in which new information is coming out on a daily basis. Please continue to check the MC [Coronavirus webpage](#) for updates and resources from the Montgomery County health authorities, state, federal, and other authorities.

I ask that you review the [communication](#) that I sent last Friday, March 6, to the College, for information on COVID-19 and steps you can take to keep yourself and others healthy. You can also contact the College with questions or concerns about COVID-19 via [publicsafety@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:publicsafety@montgomerycollege.edu). Please follow the College on social media and monitor Blackboard, MC Alert, and MC emails as we provide updates related to COVID-19. If you haven't already, I urge you to [sign up for MC Alerts](#) to stay informed. If you have further questions, please contact the Montgomery County DHHS Office of Epidemiology and Disease Prevention at 240-777-1755.

In the meantime, please follow the precautions that are circulating widely. The College is committed to providing accurate, actionable information to our community quickly. Thank you for your cooperation as we strive to minimize the impact of this challenge on our operations. The College takes the health and wellbeing of our community seriously and we appreciate your patience as we work together to manage this challenge.