

To: The Montgomery College Community

From: Dr. Monica Brown, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Sanjay Rai, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Subject: Student Concerns and COVID-19

Date: March 10, 2020

We hope you have seen the [memorandum](#) from Dr. DeRionne Pollard regarding the College's preparations for addressing the impact of the COVID-19 virus in our College community, as necessary. Please direct students to her memorandum, and the College's COVID-19 Web page: <http://montgomerycollege.edu/coronavirus>, for daily updates on the College's preparations and status during this evolving situation.

At this time, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 at the College, and the College remains open and classes are being held as usual. Please review Dr. Rai's most recent communication about continuity of instruction at the College [here](#).

You may begin to have questions from students about the College's response to the virus as the situation continues to unfold. Please use the talking points in this memorandum to help allay their concerns, provide them reliable support and resources to learn more about how they can protect themselves, and learn more about the status of testing and cases in Maryland.

If a Student asks About COVID-19:

Remind students that their best defense against the virus, any virus, is to engage in preventative measures.

- 1) Wash hands frequently and thoroughly for 20 seconds with soap and water and avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- 2) Clean frequently touched surfaces.
- 3) Stay home when they are sick.
- 4) Cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue, and throw the tissue in the trash.
- 5) Cough into your sleeve if necessary

Emphasize to students that Asian-Americans are no more likely to have COVID-19 than any other American. Being of Asian descent is not related to the likelihood of contracting or transmitting the virus.

If a Student expresses concern About Possible Exposure:

- 1) If students are concerned about possible exposure, they should stay home, contact their health provider and self-quarantine for 14 days.

- 2) Please inform Public Safety for the possible exposure via email at publicsafety@montgomerycollege.edu with the student's name and M number. This will help us track possible cases.
- 3) Please reassure the students you want them to stay at home. Your efforts to keep sick students off campus will help you, other students, and the MC community.
- 4) Most illnesses are not COVID-19. If a student develops COVID-19-like symptoms, self-quarantine is a good idea, but unless they have been in contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or have recently traveled to an area with a significant spread of COVID-19, their risk of infection is low.

The recommendations for students are equally relevant to you. Please take all preventative measures to maintain your health. If you have concerns about your health, please let your supervisor or chair know and take the preventative measures provided in this memorandum. Our goal is to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for everyone. Together, we can reduce, or eliminate, transmission of the virus. There is no need for any immediate concern. The situation is fluid. Should the situation change, we will continue to update you on next steps and work to ensure continuity of instruction to successfully complete the spring semester.

Please be extremely flexible and allow students to make up assignments and exams as needed. Thank you for patience and understanding.

Some **helpful resources** to share with students include:

1. *Share Facts about COVID-19*: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/share-facts-h.pdf>
2. *What You Need to Know About Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)*: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>
3. *Stop the Spread of Germs*: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs.pdf>
4. MC's special [coronavirus page](#)
5. [CDC coronavirus page](#)
6. [EAB Resource Center](#)
7. Daily updates on [Inside Higher Ed](#) and [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#)
8. *What To Do If You Are Sick*: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/sick-with-2019-nCoV-fact-sheet.pdf>
9. *Symptoms of Coronavirus Disease 2019*: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/COVID19-symptoms.pdf>
10. Montgomery College's personal counseling page is [here](#). This is a helpful resource for any student experiencing mental health issues.