Dear Families,

The message below was sent yesterday to your student's Bennington email address. We are sharing it so you also have this information and the College's planning around the novel coronavirus. We will be in touch closer to the start of the Spring 2020 term with additional information and updates. In the meantime, please contact our Student Health Center or Dr. Randy Anselmo (802-440-4426) with any questions. The Student Health Center has limited hours during Field Work Term, but voicemail messages and emails are being checked daily. Please leave a message and a staff member will contact you.

Best,

Natalie Basil
Dean of Students

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

TO: Faculty, Staff, and Students
FR: Dr. Randy Anselmo, Director, Health Services

We imagine many of you have been following the news of the novel coronavirus outbreak in the Wuhan and Hubei region of China. We have been watching this situation closely, as well, and are using the Vermont Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) who are working with the World Health Organization (WHO) to guide us on risk assessments and any recommendations related to travel.

We will continue to monitor these recommendations and be in touch with the community closer to the start of the Spring 2020 term with any guidance for students and faculty as they return to campus along with staff who are currently on-campus during the Field Work Term.

For now, recommendations from both the VT Department of Health and the CDC include encouraging people to get their flu shot and to take everyday preventive actions to stop the spread of germs:

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home and/or remain away from public places when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

We have reviewed our records of students who may have traveled to China over Winter Break and/or Field Work Term and none have been identified to be in or near the area identified by the CDC as active with the virus. The current recommendation is that individuals who have been to Wuhan or Hubei Province in China within the past two weeks or have been in close contact with a person with coronavirus and develop a fever, cough, or have difficulty breathing, should contact their health care provider right away.

If you have questions, please contact Student Health Services or Dr. Randy directly.

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