Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students

With recent news related to the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) globally and reports of isolated cases within the U.S., we are writing to provide an update regarding campus planning and recommendations.

We have established a coronavirus task force, coordinated by Oceana Wilson, Acting Dean of the College. Please feel free to reach out with your questions or concerns. We will continue to share information and updates on this issue.

Coronavirus Disease 2019

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 situation continues to evolve and we continue to use guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Vermont Department of Health (Vermont Health). We will monitor the situation and update recommendations as new information becomes available.

Influenza

Influenza, the flu, is active in our campus community, and we have confirmed cases present. The CDC indicates that flu activity is high and is expected to continue for several weeks.

Campus Planning & Precautions

If needed, places are in place to provide isolation and support, including academic accommodations and medical excused absences. Students who believe they may have to leave campus for health reasons should coordinate with Oceana Wilson, Acting Dean of the College, to discuss their academic plans and accommodation options.

We have established a flu shot clinic for students and staff, and flu shots are available through healthcare providers and many local pharmacies. The closest place to campus to receive a flu shot is Hannaford’s Pharmacy.

Prevention Measures

We encourage all community members to take measures to protect themselves and prevent the spread of these viruses. Hand sanitizer stations have been added in the Commons Dining Hall and in Roz’s Cafe. We encourage all community members to take measures to protect themselves and prevent the spread of these viruses.

Students Currently on Study Away/Exchange Programs

These recommendations impact travel to: China, Iran, Italy, Japan, South Korea, and Hong Kong. As you prepare for Long Weekend, business, or academic-related travel, please review the CDC travel recommendations to inform your plans and consider the need to travel against the potential risk to yourself and the Bennington College community. In many cases, the safest option may be to postpone your travel.

Faculty and Staff

Faculty and staff should be in touch with the Provost’s Office if they need to stay home due to illness and Staff should be in touch with their supervisors if they need to stay home due to illness.

Students

If you have a fever and/or respiratory illness symptoms such as a cough or shortness of breath, please call Health Services. Health Services will conduct a screening and evaluation. Calling, rather than walking in, allows a clinician to screen on the phone for any risk factors, make appointments (if you require imaging studies), and limit the spread of any illness.

Please do not self-diagnose. If you have any concerns, please be in touch with Health Services.

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Additional information is readily available online. Sign up to receive our future emails.

Thank you for your understanding and keeping the campus community informed.

Bennington College

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Families,

The message below was sent to your student’s Bennington email address. We are sharing this message with you so that you also have information and the College’s planning around the travel coronavirus (COVID-16) outbreak. We will continue to share ongoing updates, if there are any appropriate changes, please contact our Coronavirus Task Force, or \[Contact Information].

Best,

Isadora Roche

Intrinsic President