Dear Families,

The message below was sent to your Bennington email address. We are sharing this message with you so that you also have information and the College’s planning around the travel corridor (Covid-19) and influenza. We will continue to share ongoing updates, but if you have any questions, please contact Oceana Wilson, Acting Dean of the College and the head of the new Coronavirus Task Force, at oceana.wilson@bennington.edu.

Best,

Isabel Roche
Interim President

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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 US, 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 in touch with her with any questions or concerns. We will continue to share information and updates as this unfolds.

Coronavirus Disease 2019

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 situation continues to evolve and we continue to use guidance from the American College Health Association (ACHA) and the Vermont Department of Health. At this time, the risk of the virus to the Bennington College community remains low.

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 predicted to continue for several weeks.

Campus Planning & Precautions

If needed, please use a place to provide isolation and support, including academic accommodations and meals. Please reach out to health services if you may have to undergo testing for the coronavirus. The new coronavirus test kit, coordinated by Oceana Wilson, Acting Dean of the College, will monitor the situation and CDC recommendations will be developed to develop a comprehensive plan for academic instruction, housing, dining, facilities, and operations should there be a disruption to College-wide operations. Bennington College community members with questions or concerns are encouraged to email the task force.

Travel

Travel recommendations and Long-Weekend Planning

The CDC has issued updated travel recommendations due to widespread and sustained community transmission of the coronavirus. 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 use 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.

Students Currently on Study Away/Exchange Programs

Academic Services staff are monitoring international travel warnings due to the coronavirus. In addition, students currently enrolled in Study Away or Exchange programs and are working with them individually based on their locations and the recommendations of their host institutions.

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.

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