

Suffolk County Community College

College Brief

NO. 53 February 4, 2020

TO: The College Community

FROM: Louis J. Petrizzo, Esq.
 Interim President

SUBJECT: Update on the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCov)

The College continues to monitor updates related to the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCov). Recent communications from SUNY, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and several of our community partners, continue to emphasize that enhanced caution should be exercised in response to this latest world health challenge.

As shared with you as part of the College Brief issued on January 27, 2020, a SUNY flyer with helpful links and detailed information about the virus was distributed to your attention at that time. Since then, you may also have read in the news that the federal government has [enacted](#) travel restrictions and proactive entry health screenings in connection with travel to/from China beginning on Sunday, February 2, 2020. Specifically:

- Any U.S. citizen returning to the U.S. who has been in Hubei Province in the previous 14 days will be subject to up to 14 days of mandatory quarantine, to ensure they're provided proper medical care and health screening. To be clear, this applies only to U.S. citizens who have been in Hubei Province in the past 14 days
- Any U.S. citizen returning to the U.S. who has been in the rest of mainland China within the previous 14 days will undergo proactive entry health screening at a select number of ports of entry and up to 14 days of monitored self-quarantine to ensure they have not contracted the virus and do not pose a public health risk.
- Additionally, foreign nationals, other than immediate family of U.S. citizens and permanent residents, who have traveled to China within the last 14 days are being denied entry into the U.S.
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has [recommended](#) that travelers avoid all non-essential travel to mainland China. (This does not include the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, or the island of Taiwan.)

You may have questions about what you should do to protect your health and the health of the College community if you traveled to China and returned to the U.S. prior to Sunday, February 2, 2020. If you were recently in China or had contact with someone who was and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, or if you have had close contact with someone who is being evaluated

for possible Coronavirus, you should avoid coming to campus until deemed safe by health personnel, and you should:

- Seek medical advice – Call ahead before you go to a doctor’s office or emergency room. Tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.
- Avoid contact with others.
- Not travel while sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds to avoid spreading the virus to others.
- Wash your hands with soap and water immediately after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose. If soap and water are not readily available, you can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

If you are not currently exhibiting symptoms, you should continue to self-monitor your health and contact your healthcare provider if your condition changes. More information, as it continues to become available, is on the CDC’s [Coronavirus webpage](#).

SUNY has not yet recommended proactive engagement with students based on their country of origin. Instead, the current clinical and administrative guidance from the New York State Department of Health (DOH) calls for travel history screening of students and faculty as prescribed by the CDC and DOH, inclusive of separation for symptomatic individuals.

Your health and well-being is important to us and we will continue to update the community with the latest information as the situation evolves. If you have not had the opportunity to do so, please take a moment to review the material in the [attachment](#).