

Message from the President

March 10, 2020

Coronavirus Update: Campus Liaison Named and Travel Suspended

Dear Faculty and Staff,

Baruch College and The City University of New York (CUNY) continue to monitor and respond to the unprecedented, developing coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Below are two important policy announcements that pertain to all faculty and staff.

Campus Coronavirus Liaison Named

As part of a CUNY-wide effort, we have been asked by CUNY to maintain accurate and up-to-date records regarding the number of students, faculty, and staff who are quarantined due to coronavirus concerns or who have actually become ill. I have therefore appointed **Andrea Caviness, Executive Director, Office of Human Resources**, to serve as our Campus Liaison. She will regularly update the Baruch data and provide frequent reports to CUNY.

Thus, if faculty or department chairs become aware that a student, faculty member, or staff colleague has self-quarantined or is actually out sick with coronavirus-like symptoms, we ask that you **please immediately email Andrea** <andrea.caviness@baruch.cuny.edu>, while **copying your respective dean and James McCarthy, Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs** <james.mccarthy@baruch.cuny.edu>. We similarly ask department heads to do the same, copying your respective division vice president. You are asked to inform Andrea whether, to the best of your knowledge, the individual falls into one of the following categories:

- The person has a good faith belief that he or she has been exposed to coronavirus and has self-quarantined.
- The person was in close contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus and has self-quarantined.

- The person attended a large gathering that results in a self-quarantine.
- The person is actively sick with coronavirus symptoms and is either self-quarantined or was directed by a medical professional to quarantine her- or himself.

All Faculty and Staff Travel Suspended

As you know, all student study abroad programs were canceled or have been postponed. Out of an abundance of caution, I am now enacting a total travel ban for all faculty and staff for both international and domestic destinations. Limited exceptions may be made for domestic travel, at least for some period of time, but only with the prior approval of the traveler's dean or vice president.

Continued Updates

The safety of the entire Baruch College community continues to be our top priority. Accordingly, our monitoring and planning efforts have escalated from daily to near-continuous, and I appreciate your flexibility and understanding as policies and procedures will need to be modified in response to this rapidly evolving situation. In this regard, you can expect a further announcement very shortly from Provost McCarthy regarding plans to begin shifting to online pedagogy.

Sincerely,

Mitchel B. Wallerstein, PhD
President, Baruch College

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