



January 31, 2020

As people in New York State have been identified for testing for 2019 novel (new) coronavirus, SUNY Polytechnic Institute is reminded that, in cooperation with the New York State Department of Health and other state agencies that provide updated information, our institution continues to monitor the outbreak of this new virus that can cause fever, cough, sore throat, headache, shortness of breath, and a runny nose.

Though the risk to the SUNY Poly college community is believed to be low, we want to make sure that students, faculty, and staff are informed about the coronavirus and how to reduce the risk for contracting or spreading this virus.

Those who have recently traveled to Wuhan, China—where the virus is believed to have originated—and experience fever, cough, or difficulty breathing should avoid contact with others and seek medical care immediately.

For the latest information on the novel coronavirus, visit the [State University of New York website](#) which is being updated regularly. Additional information about the virus can also be found through the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) website or the local [NYS County Health Departments](#).

While there is currently no vaccine for this novel coronavirus, everyday preventative actions can help stop the spread of this and other respiratory viruses, including:

- 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 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.
- Individuals who are experiencing symptoms and may have traveled to areas of concern, or who have been in contact with somebody who has traveled to these areas, should call ahead to their healthcare provider before presenting for treatment.

The SUNY Poly Wellness Center and Environmental Health and Safety are working closely with the NYS DOH and other state agencies who are providing updated health information and ensuring medical protocols are in place.

Students may call or visit the Wellness Center, Campus Center Suite 217, (315) 792-7172 with questions or concerns. Faculty and staff should contact their private health care provider.

Thank you,

Josephine Ruffrage
Wellness Center Director

Sean Clive
Director of Environmental Health and Safety (Utica)