SUNY POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

December 28, 2020

To Faculty, Staff, and Students,

As part of our continuing effort to provide updates regarding COVID-19 and as we work to maintain the health and wellness of our students, faculty, and staff, we want to make you aware we were informed that four Utica campus employees tested positive for COVID-19. These individuals were last on campus December 7, 18, 19, and 24 and have been instructed to isolate themselves at home. They will remain isolated from the campus population until public health officials have indicated they may return.

We wish these individuals a full and rapid recovery. As per New York State requirements, the local health department has been notified, and SUNY Poly will continue to work with the county's contact tracing program to connect with anyone who may have been close contacts with the individual to inform them of what precautionary safety protocols must be followed. Please note that the CDC defines exposure risk from someone who is COVID-19 positive as resulting from being less than six feet away for a total of 15 minutes or longer over a 24-hour period.

Any individuals identified as potential close contacts through our internal contact tracing efforts have been asked to self-quarantine as directed by the Health Department's guidance. Enhanced cleaning efforts are being performed in areas identified as possible contact areas of the COVID-19 positive individuals.

As we have previously shared with you, given the likelihood that our campus would be impacted with an illness, especially with the current surge of COVID-19 activity in the surrounding communities, COVID-19 Exposure Guidance procedures have been implemented and are being followed. We encourage everyone to continue taking COVID-19 precautions on or off campus. It is also the institution's responsibility to safeguard the privacy of those on campus, and in accordance with federal law related to health information, any impacted individual(s) cannot be identified. We will continue to alert you about any COVID-19 cases impacting our campus.

To help answer a number of questions and keep our community informed, please visit SUNY Poly's COVID-19 webpage. You are also encouraged to obtain COVID-19 information from your healthcare provider, NYS Dept. of Health, and the CDC. We would also like to remind you to monitor for symptoms and that should you have a temperature of 100.4°F or higher, a cough, or trouble breathing, you should call your health provider immediately, as well as Human Resources for employee instructions.

SUNY Poly will continue to put in place the necessary measures to maximize our community's health. This update is a strong indication of why SUNY Poly is requiring strict adherence to efforts such as pooled testing, social distancing, and the wearing of face coverings while encouraging regular handwashing with soap for more than 20 seconds, along with the use of hand sanitizer (containing 60-95% alcohol).

We appreciate your supporting these critical efforts, as well as your patience and understanding.

The Office of Marketing and Communications