March 12, 2020

TO: The John Jay College Community

RE: Coronavirus Update

As concerns about the coronavirus (COVID-19) understandably increase in our communities and in our country, I want to assure everyone that your health and safety are our highest priority. Feeling anxious about the spread of the coronavirus is only natural, but as I’ve seen time and time again, our community is resilient and knows how to support each other. We are working closely with CUNY and local and national health experts to monitor the situation, and we will continue to communicate any updates that we can during this rapidly changing situation.

We continue to have the deepest concern for the John Jay student who tested positive for the coronavirus, and she is doing well and recovering at home. As a precaution, the students and instructor who attended class with the student who later tested positive have all been advised to self-isolate for a period of two weeks. As an additional precaution, on Wednesday, while the school was closed, an external cleaning company performed additional cleaning and disinfected all entrances and other areas of the College, including any of the areas in Haaren Hall visited by the student who tested positive. The areas were treated with a hospital-grade disinfectant spray solution and then wiped down. This was in addition to the proactive deep cleaning that coincidentally had taken place over the weekend after the student who was infected had last visited campus.

Because multiple John Jay offices are located in the BMW building at 555 West 57th Street, I also share an update about that location. On Wednesday night, we learned that CBS employees who work in the BMW building tested positive for the COVID-19. Please know that last night and today, building management completed a remedial cleaning consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s recommended hospital-grade decontamination protocols. This cleaning covered the CBS ninth floor, building lobby, elevators, and all high-touch surfaces. The building’s common bathrooms received enhanced-preparedness cleaning, as they have for the past two weeks. All John Jay employees located in the BMW building were informed of this situation after we learned of it last night. John Jay employees were also given the option to work from home today, Thursday, while the cleaning was carried out, and will return to work on campus tomorrow.

We are actively developing guidance on coronavirus issues as they arise. I encourage faculty members to
raise any concerns with their department chairs, and staff to communicate with their supervisors. The sharing of information is crucial during this time. Elevate any news to your supervisors and administrators, and be considerate to those around you. If you have specific questions about this situation, please send your question to AskJohnJay@jjay.cuny.edu, and we will work to address it.

Please visit the CUNY website and John Jay’s College website for the latest and most accurate information and resources. We will continue to share news and update you as conditions and plans develop.

Thank you,

Karol V. Mason
President