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March 11, 2020

TO: The John Jay College Community

RE: Coronavirus Updates (2 parts) –

(1) Classes Cancelled Thursday, March 12-Wednesday, March 18, 2020

(2) Moving to Distance-Learning Format for Spring Semester, Thursday, March 19

Last night I let you know that while the college was closed today we would be consulting further with CUNY leadership and State and City officials. As you may have heard from [Governor Cuomo](#) and a recent message from the [Chancellor](#) this afternoon, we now have additional guidance about how we can operate in the coming weeks as we work to protect the health and safety of our community and ensure that students, faculty, and staff are able to successfully complete the spring semester.

Starting tomorrow, Thursday, March 12 until Wednesday, March 18, John Jay will join the rest of CUNY in entering an instructional recess. During this time, we will work with faculty and students to transition to a distance-learning format for the remainder of the spring semester. As Governor Cuomo explained, the reason for this change is that public health experts have advised that by reducing the density of students on campus, we can reduce the potential for exposure through close proximity in busy campus areas and help to slow the spread of the virus in the New York City area.

What does this mean?

- **All in-person classes at John Jay are cancelled for an instructional recess between Thursday, March 12 and Wednesday, March 18.** Any fully online courses will proceed as regularly scheduled during that time.

- All classes will resume in distance-learning format beginning on **Thursday, March 19.**

- During the instructional recess from March 12-March 18:
 - **Faculty** should continue preparing to transition to a distance-learning format for the remainder of the spring semester. For help with this transition, faculty should review the resources that have been shared and posted on the [College website](#), including resources from the Department of Online Education and Support and the Teaching and Learning Center, as well as [FAQs for faculty](#) on the CUNY site. During this period we will also be working with faculty, through department chairs and program directors, to identify any particular course aspects, such as laboratory work, that cannot be moved to a distance-learning format and we will develop plans to address those.

 - **Students** are reminded that they should provide their updated email addresses to professors and in Blackboard, so that they receive all important communications regarding their classes.

 - **Staff**, including Research Foundation employees working at John Jay, college assistants, work-study students, and Student Activity Association staff, should report to work according to their regular schedules.

 - **Everyone** should continue to practice universal precautions: wash your hands, avoid touching your face, and stay home and consult with your health care provider if you feel sick.

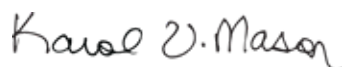
- All campus facilities will remain open both during the instructional recess and after all classes resume in distance learning format on March 19. This includes an array of student services such as the Wellness Center, Advising Center, Career Services Center, library, and computer labs, as well as essential on-campus services such as Public Safety. The Children's Center and the New Yorker residence hall will also remain open. While there will be no on-campus classes during the instructional recess time, faculty and students who need to retrieve items from campus in order to prepare for distance learning should feel free to do so.

There are many operational issues to work through, and we are working collaboratively with CUNY and across campus offices to gather information and develop guidance for this period of transition, including guidance on questions about events on campus, food service, athletics, and commencement. I will continue to update the community as we have new information to share. I urge you to visit the [CUNY website](#) and John Jay's [College website](#) for the latest and most accurate updates, information, and resources. If you have specific questions about this transition, please send your question to AskJohnJay@jjay.cuny.edu, and we will work to address it.

I recognize that many in our community are feeling anxious about this rapidly evolving situation and I want to emphasize that there are resources to assist you. Students can go to the Wellness Center located in L68.05 or call 212-237-8111. Employees can access counseling services at 855-492-3633 or by logging in at the [Deer Oaks website](#) using “cuny” (all lowercase) as your username and password.

Faced with so much change and uncertainty, it is more important than ever that we support each other and are there for each other. I am grateful to each and every one of you for your patience and understanding as we work through the challenges that confront us. I am confident that our community will be able to successfully adapt to new modalities of learning, and new ways of supporting our important mission of providing an excellent justice education for our students.

Thank you,



Karol V. Mason
President

