

From: Case Willoughby
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 9:47 AM
Subject: Coronavirus info and prevention

Dear BC3 Student,

You may have heard about the novel coronavirus in the news, and this email will give you information about it, and the preventative steps that you can take.

First, according the Pennsylvania Department of Health, **the likelihood of catching the coronavirus in the United States is currently very low.** The coronavirus can cause respiratory illness that can be very mild or very serious. The Department states:

Human coronaviruses spread just like the flu or a cold—through the air by coughing or sneezing; through close personal contact, like touching or shaking hands; by touching an object or surface with the viruses on it; and occasionally, through fecal contamination. Currently, the threat of someone in the United States becoming sick with the novel coronavirus, or 2019-nCoV, is very low. Those at risk are those who have traveled to China, and those caring for those who already have the virus.

Steps to avoid the coronavirus also reduce the likelihood of catching other respiratory infections such as the common cold or the flu which are more prevalent. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends: (also see attached flyer)

- *Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.*
- *If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.*
- *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 immediately throw the tissue in the trash.*
- *Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.*

*If you are sick and need to stay home, be sure to email your professors and contact your doctor.

For more information about the coronavirus, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>

Again, the current risk of contracting the coronavirus is very low, but the steps above will help protect you from it or other respiratory illnesses.

If you have any questions please email me directly.

Sincerely,

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