

From: [Dean Sprinkle](#)
To: [Internal All Locations](#)
Subject: Brief Update
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Several colleges and universities in the United States, including Virginia, have announced plans to implement procedures as a result of concerns regarding the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The implementation of online class options, in place of face-to-face classes, for students is one of the items being utilized, as is the restriction of international travel. The University of Virginia and NOVA are both implementing these options to varying degrees. I have included below links to each school's website regarding their plans.

UVA - <https://www.virginia.edu/coronavirus>

NOVA - <https://www.nvcc.edu/coronavirus/index.html>

It is entirely possible other colleges and universities will follow. You may have also heard that Pulaski County Public Schools are closed on Friday, March 13 to make preparations regarding the Coronavirus. There are also conferences and events being canceled or postponed.

Please note that I and the administration are monitoring information from many sources including the Virginia Department of Health, VCCS, Centers for Disease Control to name a few. Information is evolving on a continuous basis. WCC does have a Continuity of Operations Plan and a Pandemic plan for situations such as this, which will guide us going forward.

I mentioned during last Friday's In-service session that we would be increasing cleaning. Beginning March 12 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, an additional janitorial person will be performing supplementary cleaning of high traffic areas on the Wytheville campus. We have also been in contact with our leased off-site locations, Crossroads Institute and Summit, regarding cleaning and posting of information regarding the importance of thorough hand-washing.

You can help prevent the spread of viruses, including the coronavirus, by following the following recommendations:

- If you have a fever, stay home. Symptoms of the virus include fever, cough, and trouble breathing, and can appear anywhere from two to 14 days after exposure. Anyone experiencing symptoms should visit a doctor immediately.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Many of these hygiene awareness practices such as washing your hands, using alcohol-based hand sanitizer, covering your cough, and not sharing drinks or food can help prevent the spread of germs in general.

For more information on the Novel Coronavirus, please see links below:

- [Virginia Department of Health - Fact Sheet for Coronaviruses](#)
- [Virginia Department of Health – Coronavirus Updates](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control - 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#)
- [World Health Organization - Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\)](#)

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