



North Hennepin
Community College

A member of Minnesota State

Engaging students, changing lives

Dear Colleagues & Students:

In partnership with Minnesota State, North Hennepin Community College (NHCC) is reviewing emergency response plans, (which includes a Pandemic Annex) to prepare for the potential spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United States. While at this time the risk of becoming sick with COVID-19 is low, we are closely monitoring the developing situation and are committed to taking steps necessary to protect the health and safety of our students, and employees.

In an effort to share the most up-to-date information about how the coronavirus (COVID-19) may impact students and employees, a web page will be created – <http://www.nhcc.edu/coronavirus.html>. The web page includes answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs), information about important preventative personal hygiene measures that can be taken, and links to the Minnesota Department of Health and CDC websites.

Actions taken to date:

- MinnState’s suspension of official international travel (this includes study abroad programs, and any other activities involving employees and students until further notice.
- MinnState holds weekly meetings with campuses’ COVID-19 points of contact to distribute information expediently. The first meeting was 4 Mar 2020 and the highlights include:
 - o MinnState has created General/National Guidance and Information tab located on their website. Also, see attached FAQs.
 - o With regards to the international travel restriction, the intent is to hold students harmless. For those students who have personal funds already expensed for international travel, we must help them get refunds, travel credit, or the like. We do not want to burden our students.
 - o Every employee traveling on behalf of the college, while getting paid by the college, is on official travel and are subject to the travel restrictions.
 - o Current international travel restriction is indefinite; the Chancellor will review the restriction every 30 days or so after consulting with CDC and MDH recommendations.
 - o Campuses are encouraged to establish COVID-19 updates on their websites, and provide a link to the System Office’s website.
 - o Campuses must determine the impact of Spring Break on our students (housing, food, international travel home & back)
 - o Students missing classes (campuses must devise a strategy to deal with keeping students in classes, hybrid, independent study, etc).
 - o Campuses encouraged to review and update Emergency Response Plans.
- The stand-up of the NHCC Pandemic Workgroup (consisting of scientists, administrators, environmental health and safety, student services, and public safety). We will meet weekly in order to ascertain the covid-19 next steps for our college.
- Hand Sanitizers dispensers have been refilled/restocked throughout campus and will remained filled

The following resources and information are available to assist you:

- We are cooperating with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and are conveying their information and guidance related to COVID-19. MDH and Minnesota State are working to develop regular communication channels to proactively address school-related topics with regard to COVID-19.
- MDH is making available information for schools, colleges and universities available at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools.html>.
- To date, there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported at any Minnesota State college or university or at the system office. At this time, MDH assesses the risk of becoming sick with COVID-19 for people in Minnesota schools, as low, and is not recommending that domestic events or extracurricular activities be cancelled.
- Anyone in the U.S. who has not traveled to China or been in contact with someone confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 in the last 14 days is at low risk of becoming sick with the virus.

We encourage all students and employees to:

- Wash your hands frequently. Learn about safe hand hygiene.
- When you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose. To do so, cough or sneeze into your upper arm or use a tissue.
- Stay at home when sick.

Other Informational Resources:

There are many sources of information on COVID-19 including state, national and international organizations. Primarily sources for Minnesota State monitoring, planning, and response are:

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH):

- COVID-19 Home: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>
- For schools: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- COVID-19 Home: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Travel: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

State Department (DOS) Travel Information:

- <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/travelers-with-special-considerations.html>

NHCC representatives are participating in weekly calls with Minnesota State regarding COVID-19. We will continue to closely monitor the situation, follow guidance from health officials and will keep the college community informed of relevant information. We encourage you to visit the college web page on the coronavirus (COVID-19) for additional information.

Better Together!

Kent

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