

Dear Franklin Pierce Parents:

Please know that while we are pleased to report that at this time no students, faculty or staff members at Franklin Pierce have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are known to have been exposed to the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes it, we are taking steps to ensure that our shared priority – the health and well-being of our students – is best achieved. We know that this is a stressful time for our students and their loved ones. We share your concern.

While we are hopeful for a fast solution, it is likely that we will see the need to take additional steps to best safeguard our students. Please note several important updates and steps we have taken as the situation continues to evolve:

- We continue to monitor and abide by guidance from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services – as well the Arizona Department of Health Services (for our students in Goodyear, Arizona);
- We are in communication with local health care facilities, including the infectious disease team at Cheshire Medical Center and other local hospitals;
- Students, faculty and staff have been asked to practice proven strategies for minimizing the risk of respiratory virus as outlined by the CDC;
- Students have been directed to **contact Student Health Services at 603 899-4130 or healthservices@franklinpierce.edu** if they develop symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath or have close contact with someone known to have COVID-19;
- Although it was stressed that they do not minimize the need for vigorous hand washing as recommended by the CDC, we have installed hand sanitizer dispensers in common areas as an added precaution;
- We have asked that students reassess their spring break travel plans with their well-being in mind, consider all CDC travel guidance and quarantine requirements, and prepare for the fact that additional restrictions will likely be put in place in the days and weeks to come;
- We are in close communications with the colleges and universities we collaborate with to ensure that we act with an appropriate, shared level of caution. Notably, we have already cancelled research scheduled for Franklin Pierce students at Stanford University next week given Stanford's decision to cease in-person instruction because of the virus;
- We have a protocol in place and space set aside for screening and quarantine should the need arise; and

- The New Hampshire College & University Council continues to debrief college and university presidents throughout the state of its senior-most consultations with New Hampshire's Governor Chris Sununu and the state's Department of Health and Human Services.

Most importantly, please know that we are taking the spread of coronavirus very seriously. If you have any questions about your student, please contact me directly at polloma@franklinpierce.edu.

Andrew R. Pollom, Ed.D.
Dean of Student Affairs
Franklin Pierce University