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**Subject:** COVID-19 Update: March 10, 2020

**Date:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 7:25:40 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** ForQNews

**To:** All-faculty-staff, AllStudents

Dear Students, Faculty, Staff and Families,

We continue to navigate the fast-changing circumstances associated with the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). We are committed to the health and well-being of our campus community and providing you with regular updates on Queens' response.

First, it is important that we remain supportive and welcoming toward all community members, including those who were born in, lived in or traveled to the areas of the world most affected by this global issue. Discrimination has no place here. We all strive to make Queens an inclusive, respectful and caring community.

The COVID-19 outbreak is an unprecedented event in recent history. As a result, there are many very difficult decisions that have been made and will continue to be made until this health risk subsides. Considering the challenging circumstances, the senior leadership team invites your cooperation, support, patience, and good faith in its efforts to best manage this fluid challenge. It is important to note that all decisions and recommendations to date have been in strict adherence of CDC guidelines. There is a useful [page on the CDC website](#) which encourages people to share facts to reduce stigma around this virus.

## Travel

- In order to remain vigilant, the university asked anyone who traveled outside of North Carolina for spring break to report their travel. More than 400 individuals did so, which has been a tremendous help as we monitor and respond to the situation. Through that self-reporting, we were able to identify students who had traveled to high-exposure areas and asked them to self-quarantine off-campus. We are happy to report that these students are complying with our instructions and remain away from campus.
- Additionally, the university held a faculty-led international experience to France during spring break. Although there was and is no travel advisory to France, out of an abundance of caution, we asked those students to practice social distancing on campus. The students are not self-quarantining and were not instructed to do so. Social distancing means not attending large events. These students are free to go to class and to the dining hall.
- **We are suspending all non-essential university-related, funded or sponsored travel for faculty, staff and students through April 20, or until further notice.** Exceptions will be made with senior leadership approval. Exceptions could include travel in a 200-mile radius that avoids airports, mass transit and large gatherings.
- Queens athletics teams are following guidance from the NCAA which currently has not suspended play.
- We are strongly urging anyone engaging in personal travel to [self-report their travel](#) and understand they may be asked to self-quarantine off-campus for 14 days prior to their return to Queens. For any future travel, be sure to check for [travel advisories](#) regularly – restrictions change rapidly, and new restrictions may be enacted with no advance notice. Please check the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) website](#) for the most up-to-date information.

## Events

- We are currently evaluating all campus events individually, taking into consideration the timing, size and audience. We will keep you updated on these decisions.

## Facilities

- We have asked dining services to make an adjustment so that the cafeteria line is not self-serve. This section will still be open with dining service employees there to serve the food.
- Be advised that we have instructed our campus facilities staff to increase the frequency in which common areas, such as classrooms and residence hall common areas, are cleaned. Additionally, high traffic areas and touch points such as doorknobs, hand railings, water fountains and elevators are being disinfected on a more frequent basis.

## Preventative Measures

- The best way to prevent the spread of the virus is by practicing good preventative hygiene including washing your hands, avoid touching your face, cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, and stay home if you are sick.

Please continue to visit [our webpage](#) dedicated to updating pertinent information regarding the university and COVID-19, including a new list of frequently asked questions for students, faculty and families.

Thank you for working together with us as we traverse this unprecedented set of circumstances.

Be well and stay safe,

Queens Senior Leadership Team

Daniel Lugo, President

Dr. Sarah Fatherly, Provost

James Bullock, Vice President for University Advancement & Athletics

Maria del Carmen Flores-Mills, Vice President of Student Engagement & Dean of Students

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