

March 4, 2020

To our DDDC families,

The health of our DDDC students, families and staff is our top priority. We have been monitoring information from the [New Jersey Department of Health](#) as well as the [New Jersey Department of Education](#) to guide us as we face the possible spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). In addition, Rutgers University's President Barchi has mobilized a task force of senior university leaders to ensure a coordinated university response to any challenges this virus presents. To date, there are no cases of COVID-19 reported in New Jersey. However, we take this public health matter seriously and are working closely with GSAPP's Dean Francine Conway and the University administration to ensure we plan proactively in the event daily operations at the university or the DDDC are impacted.

Our efforts to respond to this virus currently are focused on staying informed about COVID-19 and planning for the possibility of an outbreak so we can limit the possible number of cases. We encourage you to help your children follow the [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC) guidance on how to slow or prevent the spread of any virus, including:

- cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, or cough/sneeze into your sleeve, not your hands
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- wash your hands often, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds, especially after coughing or sneezing
- if soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- avoid contact with people who are sick
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects or surfaces

If your child is sick or you have any reason to believe he or she could have been exposed to COVID-19, please keep him or her home. While you are not obligated to share your child's private health information with anyone, in the interest of keeping our DDDC and Rutgers communities safe, we ask that you please communicate with the DDDC to report any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19.

We will continue to work closely with Dean Conway and the task force of senior leaders at the university to provide information and updates on the impact of COVID-19 on the university's operating status. We will also keep you informed about our plans should daily operations at the DDDC be impacted. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.



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