

A Message from Christopher Manente, RCAAS Executive Director:

Dear RCAAS Students, Program Participants, Families, & Staff,

I am writing today to share and expand upon the message sent earlier today by Dr. Francine Conway, Dean of the Rutgers Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology, (displayed below) regarding our commitment to proactively planning for the potential impact that the Coronavirus could have on the day-to-day functioning of both Rutgers University and the RCAAS.

As a center within Rutgers University, the RCAAS typically follows university guidance regarding [operating status](#) including any unexpected closures. Generally speaking, this will continue to be our approach to determining the appropriate operating status for the RCAAS in response to the current situation related to the Coronavirus.

This is a significant public health matter that our organization is taking very seriously. There are steps that individuals can take to minimize their exposure and there are steps that the university is taking to help assure the health of the members of our community. Please take the time to review the information that is linked here related to [guidance from the CDC](#) on minimizing risk of exposure and additional information from [Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences](#) related to all that is being done at Rutgers.

Our first priority is always to do all that we can to protect and maintain a safe and healthy program environment for all associated with the RCAAS. To this end, anyone with a suspected or confirmed case of a communicable illness will not be permitted to engage in active participation in the program in accordance with the RCAAS Program Manual that is attached to this email for your review (p.17-18).

While we deeply respect everyone's right to privacy, given the seriousness of the current circumstance and in the interest of keeping our entire community safe, please continue to stay in regular communication with your RCAAS team members about any concerns related to the presence of any symptoms that could be indicative of a communicable illness.

Please know that we are actively working to develop alternate strategies for addressing many of the ways that this situation could potentially impact our organization's ability to provide the services and supports that many rely on to succeed in many aspects of daily life. Feel free to contact me with questions or concerns regarding this situation at any point.

Christopher J. Manente, Ph.D., BCBA  
Executive Director, Rutgers Center for Adult Autism Services  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Office Address: 102 Nichol Ave. New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
Phone: 848-445-3973

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dean's Office** <[deansoffice@gsapp.rutgers.edu](mailto:deansoffice@gsapp.rutgers.edu)>

Date: Tue, Mar 3, 2020 at 1:15 PM

Subject: Message From the Dean - COVID-19

To: <[cmame001@scarletmail.rutgers.edu](mailto:cmame001@scarletmail.rutgers.edu)>

**RUTGERS**

Graduate School of Applied  
and Professional Psychology

**Francine Conway**  
Dean

Dear Colleagues,

Yesterday, President Barchi issued a statement to the Rutgers Community regarding COVID-19. The University task force of senior leaders are working to ensure the safety of all Rutgers University students and staff. To recap, there are currently no reported cases of COVID-19 involving Rutgers students, faculty, or staff, and there are no reported cases in New Jersey.

At GSAPP, we have convened a team of GSAPP leadership members who are closely monitoring the situation and developing a plan should the need arise that prepares us to make accommodations for completing the Spring 2020 Semester and addressing the training needs of our students and the clients they are serving. We will share our preparedness plans as the situation unfolds.

As mental health practitioners, we will be faced with mitigating the anxieties of our students, staff and clients.

Here are some resources identified by the American Psychological Association regarding ways to manage news coverage of the Coronavirus (<https://www.apa.org/helpcenter/pandemics>). APA also recommends the podcast on anxieties about new risks by Baruch Fischhoff, PhD (<https://www.apa.org/research/action/speaking-of-psychology/coronavirus-anxiety>).

It is important to take care of your health. Notices of CDC good care practices will be posted in our classrooms and student lounge areas and is included here for your reference (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/about/prevention-treatment.html>). You can also keep abreast of developments in the US through the CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>).

Please take good care and reach out if you have any concerns, updates or news to share. I can be reached through the dean's office at [deansoffice@gsapp.rutgers.edu](mailto:deansoffice@gsapp.rutgers.edu).

Sincerely,



GSAPP at Rutgers | 152 Frelinghuysen Road, Psychology Building, Busch Campus Room A309,  
Piscataway, NJ 08854

[Unsubscribe cmane001@scarletmail.rutgers.edu](mailto:cmane001@scarletmail.rutgers.edu)

[Update Profile](#) | [About Constant Contact](#)

Sent by [deansoffice@gsapp.rutgers.edu](mailto:deansoffice@gsapp.rutgers.edu) in collaboration with

**Constant Contact** 

[Try email marketing for free today!](#)