February 3, 2020

To: USMSM Community [Staff, Students, Faculty, and Patrons]

From: Dr. Ben O. Latigo, Interim Executive Director & Chief Academic Officer

Subject: USMSM-EMERGENCY Information on Coronavirus

All of you are likely aware that federal, state and local health officials are closely monitoring the outbreak of a new strain of coronavirus (2019-nCoV) that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. There is currently no laboratory confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV in Maryland or within the University System of Maryland community. Last week, one Maryland resident was tested to Novel Coronavirus, and that result was negative. Updated information regarding testing in Maryland residents is posted online at https://health.maryland.gov/coronavirus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers the coronavirus a serious but not immediate health risk to the general American public. Please visit the CDCs Coronavirus web page https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html to obtain national and international updates. You may also visit http://www.smchd.org/ and https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Novel-coronavirus.aspx to see the latest updates and information provided by the St. Mary’s County Health Department and the Maryland Department of Health respectively.

The CDC Provided the Following Information for People Who Have Recently Traveled to China, or Who Have Had Contact With a Person Who Has Traveled to China:

If you have recently traveled to Hubei Province/China (or have had contact with someone who has) and are experiencing fever (greater than 100F or 37.8C), cough, or difficulty breathing, report immediately to the nearest hospital emergency department. If possible, call ahead to alert the facility of your symptoms and travel history. When you arrive at the facility, notify personnel immediately of your symptoms and travel history.

Information for People with Underlying Health Conditions or Who Take Medicines that Suppress Their Immune System:

If you are experiencing a fever, cough, or shortness of breath, visit your healthcare provider immediately. Get your yearly flu shot to prevent complications.

Information for Everyone:

- USMSM will increase cleaning of high-touch surfaces and restrooms in our campus buildings and will add additional hand sanitizing supplies throughout the campus to aid individual efforts to maintain hygiene that reduces transmission of viruses.
- USMSM will have masks available at the Front Desk for your use as deemed necessary.
• As a best practice for overall health in cold and influenza season, the CDC recommends that individuals receive the influenza vaccination and engage in everyday, preventative measures to prevent the spread of germs and avoid illness, such as:
  o Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
  o Avoid touching eyes, mouth and nose with unwashed hands.
  o Avoid close contact with individuals who are sick.
  o Stay home when you are sick. The CDC recommends that individuals remain home for at least 24 hours after you no longer have a fever or signs of a fever (i.e., chills, feeling warm, flushed appearance).

• Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then immediately discard the tissue in the trash.
• Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
• Take any anti-viral medication prescribed to you as instructed.

We have established a contact at St. Mary’s County Health Department (Terry Gray Prochnaw, Director of Health Preparedness and Response 301-475-4330) in order to quickly and efficiently communicate any information pertinent to the USMSM campus community. The USMSM point of contact is Dr. Ben Latigo, 301-737-2500.

We have been in communication with Dr. Sacared Bodison, UMD’s Director of the Health Center to consult on our course of action. Dr. Bodison’s recommendations are incorporated herein.

In addition to these steps, it has been suggested by Dr. Bodison that we encourage members of our University Partner faculty who teach at the USMSM to be flexible in allowing students to complete assignments with extra time or remotely when necessary. Providing video or audio transcriptions of classes or remote, online access to class or office hours would also be very helpful if possible.

We will continue to monitor the situation as it unfolds and will take action as necessary. We will keep you informed of our actions.

We are hopeful that our entire University System of Maryland community remains safe and healthy. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

One final note: In addition to the information we are providing students, faculty, staff, and patrons on the USMSM campus, you may also be receiving helpful communications about the coronavirus directly from University Partner institutions. Please be sure to keep yourself informed as new information or guidance becomes available on this important health matter.