

Update for the Sarah Lawrence College Community Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

The SLC Health & Wellness Center takes this opportunity to provide you with an update on the status of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). At this time, the College does not have any suspected or confirmed cases of the 2019-nCoV.

What is novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)?

2019-nCoV is a newly identified coronavirus that is causing an outbreak of respiratory illness. It was first identified in December 2019 in the city of Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Since then, the virus has been identified in a growing number of countries, including cases in the U.S. Symptoms of the 2019-nCoV may include fever, cough and difficulty breathing.

What is the campus Health & Wellness Center doing about 2019-nCoV?

The Medical Staff at the Health & Wellness Center has been in close contact with the Westchester County and New York State Departments of Health regarding the status of the 2019-nCoV in our area. Currently there are no confirmed cases locally, or on our campus.

Medical Staff, in preparedness training, attended webinars by the New York State Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for updated information on the 2019-nCoV, infection prevention and control guidance specific to the 2019-nCoV, and guidelines for clinicians caring for patients with the 2019-nCoV.

Patients presenting at the Health & Wellness Center are screened for exposure risks of the 2019-nCoV infections and for symptoms consistent with the 2019-nCoV infection. Any student meeting the criteria set by the CDC will be isolated and the Westchester County Department of Health will be notified. Subsequent testing, treatment and care will be coordinated with the Department of Health.

The Health & Wellness Center continues to manage cases of seasonal influenza on campus and recommends that all students seek care for flu like symptoms (cough, sore throat, runny nose, muscle/body aches, headaches, fatigue, vomiting/diarrhea). We have a limited number of flu shots still available for students, and although it is late in the season, we recommend vaccination.

Please continue to utilize the prevention measures listed below in an effort to keep our community healthy.

Prevention:

There is no vaccine to prevent the 2019-nCoV virus, and the CDC advises that the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

Here are everyday actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses including seasonal influenza:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Recommendations for people with respiratory symptoms:

If you have symptoms of fever, cough, and/or difficulty breathing and in the last 14 days you:

- Traveled to main land China, **OR**
- Had close contact with a person confirmed with the 2019-nCoV

You should:

- Seek medical care right away. Before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.
- A student with symptoms or questions should call the Health & Wellness Center (914-395-2350) and request to speak with a medical provider. The Health & Wellness Center is open Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you should experience symptoms when the Health & Wellness Center is closed, call Westlands Desk and request to speak with the on-call doctor (available until 11 p.m. daily) or request transportation to the Emergency Room. Local Urgent Care Centers are also available in the surrounding community. A list of local Urgent Care Centers can be found online: <http://my.slc.edu/urgentcare>
- A non-student experiencing symptoms and with a travel history to mainland China, or close contact with somebody confirmed with the 2019-nCoV should call ahead to their health care provider or local urgent care center before presenting for treatment.
- Access a New York State hotline **1-888-364-3065** where experts from the Department of Health can answer questions regarding the Novel Coronavirus.
- Avoid contact with others.
- Do not travel while sick. Do not use public transportation or show up at a health center without calling ahead.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available

Thank you for taking the time to read this information and implementing these prevention measures. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me:

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Additional Resources:

- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>
- World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/>
- Westchester County Health Department: <https://health.westchestergov.com/>
- New York State Department of Health: <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

New York State hotline **1-888-364-3065** where experts from the Department of Health can answer questions regarding the Novel Coronavirus.