

A Message from Executive Vice President (EVP) and Dean of Student Life - March 2, 2020

Dear Rocky Community:

I am writing today to share the measures Rocky Mountain College is undertaking to prepare for and minimize the risk associated with COVID-19 virus. We are committed to keeping our campus informed and will communicate with you as circumstances warrant.

Today, the College's Emergency Management Taskforce met to evaluate the latest guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and local health officials. At this time, there are no reported COVID-19 cases in Montana. Both the CDC and area health organizations are urging the public to follow standard protocols to protect themselves from the virus and to prevent transmission. Specifically, all members of the College community should take the following precautionary measures:

- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.** This guidance is especially important after using the restroom; before eating; after sneezing, coughing or blowing your nose.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.**
- **Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then properly dispose of it in the trash.**
- **Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.**
- **Avoid close contact with people who are sick.**
- **Stay at home (or in your room) when you are sick.**

In addition to providing prevention information, the College will be taking additional measures to sanitize and disinfect common areas, classrooms, and restrooms. We currently use an electrochemical activation (ECA) system as part of our standard cleaning protocols. Primarily completed at night, you are unlikely to have seen this system at work. The facilities department will be increasing applications during this flu season and you may also see staff members applying disinfectant in common areas as an added precaution. Also, you will continue to find hand sanitizers in all campus buildings and all offices will be provided with disinfectant wipes.

You can find additional information about the Coronavirus and RMC's response by visiting the links below:

- **CDC** - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- **Riverstone Health** - <https://riverstonehealth.org/public-health-preventing-disease/2019-novel-coronavirus/>
- **Riverstone Health Coronavirus Hotline** - [406.651.6415](tel:406.651.6415)
- **Montana Health & Human Services State Updates** - <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/coronavirusmt>
- **RMC Pandemic Flu Plan** - <https://www.rocky.edu/sites/default/files/rmc-pandemic-flu-plan.pdf>

This is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation and the RMC Emergency Management Taskforce will continue to monitor developments and provide the campus community with updates as additional information becomes available. In the meantime, please do your best to follow the CDC's precautionary measures noted above.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact the Dean of Students office at [657-1018](tel:657-1018) or the Student Health Center at [657-1068](tel:657-1068).

Brad Nason

Executive Vice President (EVP) and Dean of Student Life