



**March 6, 2020**

We have been following the coronavirus outbreak carefully. Our top concern is the safety and health of our students, faculty, staff, and guests while making sure that academic programs at VCFA move forward as planned with as little disruption as possible.

**As of today there are no confirmed or suspected cases of this virus at VCFA.**

This is a rapidly evolving situation. VCFA has established a COVID-19 Response Team that is meeting daily and closely monitoring new guidance as it is issued by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the Vermont Health Department. While the immediate risk at VCFA remains low, we are preparing for the possibility that the coronavirus outbreak may cause a public health threat to the College community.

As we monitor this rapidly changing situation we will use this page to inform our community on the actions we are taking and on additional as it becomes available from public health officials and others. We have created a dedicated email address for any questions from the VCFA community related to the coronavirus. That address is **covid19@vcfa.edu**.

#### **ACTIONS TAKEN**

- We are implementing an even stronger disinfecting protocol: facilities staff are wiping down surfaces more often with specific products that are non-toxic to humans but will kill both flu and COVID-19 viruses.
- We are instituting a mandatory single-room policy for the April residencies. Those students will be charged at the lower double-room rate and will receive updated bills and/or refunds.
- We will place hygiene recommendations throughout campus reminding people to wash their hands, to avoid touching their face, particularly nose, mouth, and eyes, and to cover coughs and sneezes with something disposable (like a tissue) which can then be immediately thrown away.
- We will post hands-off reminders across campus, encouraging no hugs, no handshakes, etc.

**Starting immediately we are asking any members of our VCFA community on campus to:**

- Notify your supervisor or program director if you have been in Japan, China, Italy, South Korea, or Iran within the last month.
- Pay extra attention to basic hygiene protocols. This means making sure that you wash your hands for a minimum of 20 seconds multiple times per day—wash the backs of your hands as well as your palms, between your fingers, and under your fingernails—avoid touching your face, particularly nose, mouth and eyes, and cover coughs and sneezes with something disposable (like a tissue) which can then be immediately thrown away.
- Refrain from shaking hands and hugging.
- Stay home if you are sick, and do not return to campus until you are fever-free for 24 hours.
- If you have a fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early.

As mentioned above, this is a rapidly changing situation. The College is consulting WHO, CDC, and VT Health Department resources daily for updates, alerts, and recommendations. We are assessing and planning for a variety of scenarios that may impact our community's operations.