

**From:** Blumberg, Elizabeth <[EBLUMBERG@massbay.edu](mailto:EBLUMBERG@massbay.edu)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:10 PM  
**Subject:** Update on Coronavirus Preparation

Dear Students,

I am writing to follow up on the President's email from last week regarding how MassBay is responding to the Coronavirus. While there are currently no confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) at MassBay, the college continues to closely monitor the situation and we are taking steps to ensure the health and safety of our entire community.

As President Podell mentioned in his March 2<sup>nd</sup> email, we are closely monitoring federal, state and local news, including information from the [Centers for Disease Prevention & Control](https://www.cdc.gov) (CDC) and the Massachusetts Department of Health. Up to date scientific information is the first step in our ongoing effort to protect the college community.

To that end, we can all participate in helping to make MassBay a healthy and safe learning environment. **Students have an important role to play in keeping MassBay healthy.** We ask each student to commit to the following practices:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol (if soap and water are not available).
- Avoid touching your face—eyes, nose, mouth—with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- If you are sick, avoid crowded spaces, including classes and public events.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. At the very least, cough/sneeze into your elbow instead of your hand.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

If you are concerned about your own health, please consult your medical provider. If you feel unwell and are showing symptoms, please communicate this with your faculty and stay home until you get better. If you do receive confirmation that you have the coronavirus, you must contact Public Safety at 781-239-2222 immediately.

With Spring Break fast approaching, please keep in mind the following information:

### **Spring Recess Dates**

Monday March 16th - March 22, 2020.

### **Domestic Travel**

Students are asked to monitor updates from the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) for any alerts that could affect your travel plans.

### **International Travel**

If you are traveling abroad during spring recess, you should consider consulting with the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) and [U.S. State Department](https://www.state.gov) travel warnings and exercise prudence. If you travel (or have recently traveled) to an area of [Level 3](https://www.cdc.gov) warning level or higher, you are not permitted to return to MassBay until you have self-quarantined for 14 days. As of today, these areas include China, Iran, Italy, and South Korea. If you find yourself in that situation, please contact Public Safety at 781-239-2222 to inform them of this matter. In addition, please go to our website at

[massbay.edu/coronavirus](https://massbay.edu/coronavirus) and fill out the form related to your travel. Please be aware that the rapid and unpredictable global spread of COVID-19 could result in travel restrictions that delay your return to MassBay.

### **Additional Information**

MassBay has [Coronavirus updates and resources](#) on our website which the college is updating frequently. We appreciate your patience as we strive to provide timely and accurate information during this rapidly changing situation.

I recognize that this is a lot of information and for many people this is a time of heightened anxiety. When we turn on our televisions or look at our social media feeds, a great deal of information about this virus—both accurate and inaccurate—is thrust upon us. So, anxiety seems a reasonable response but I do think it is important to remember that the risk remains low in Massachusetts. Please remember that the college does offer counseling should you want help coping with this ongoing situation (781-239-3142). I found the following recommendations to be helpful for us all to consider, including our students who are also parents: [Managing reactions to the Coronavirus](#).

Thank you for your cooperation as we work to keep our community healthy.

Sincerely,

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