

Dear Students.

I am writing to update you regarding MassBay's response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. The College is focused on providing a safe environment while also maintaining instruction, and is acting on the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Massachusetts Department of Health, and other government and health authorities to reduce the number of people coming into close physical contact. Please read the following information closely:

In-person courses and labs (including the in-person meetings of hybrid courses) will be suspended during the week of March 23-27 (the week after spring break). We will provide updates via email about these courses, and your faculty will also be reaching out to you regarding any further changes to their courses. Please watch for emails from your instructors that will inform you how in-person classes might change. If you're in an in-person class that transitions to an online course, it will not begin until March 30th.

Online courses (and the online portions of hybrid courses) will continue after spring break without interruption. Please continue to participate in your online courses after spring break.

Eight-week courses that begin on March 23 (the "8-week II" session) and are online courses will begin as expected on March 23. In-person courses that are scheduled to begin on March 23rd will not start that week and will plan to start on Monday, March 30.

Please check your MassBay email every day for further information. It is critical that you read your email as the situation is evolving on a daily basis. Your faculty will also be using email to contact you regarding any changes to your courses.

We appreciate your continued individual attention to preventive measures to minimize risk of contracting or spreading the virus: washing hands carefully and avoiding gatherings of significant numbers of people are two primary ways to help lessen the impact of the virus on the community. To that end, we ask that if you come to campus, you do not bring guests or family members with you as this only increases the risk of exposure. Remember: if you are feeling sick, do not come to campus. Inform your instructor via email.

We recognize that the news regarding the coronavirus will create stress and anxiety for many people, and, as always, our counseling services team is available for students who want assistance coping with the situation. They can be reached at www.massbay.edu/counseling.

In addition, we recognize that some students may be facing life challenges such as food insecurity and homelessness. If you are in this situation, please reach out to our case manager, Marybeth Fletcher, who can be reached at mfletcher@massbay.edu so that we may be able to provide you resources.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we all work together to do what is necessary to keep our community safe.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth S. Blumberg, Psy.D.
VP for Student Development and Dean of Students