

Message from the President

March 5, 2020

Updates on the 2019 Coronavirus

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

I would like to share with you the [latest updates](#) and initiatives from The City University of New York (CUNY), which is closely monitoring the rapidly changing developments related to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

- [This update](#) addresses such topics as students studying abroad, international travel, facilities and hygiene initiatives, and combating anxiety, among other guidance and measures.

NEW CUNY Task Force and Email Hotline

The University has established a special task force and hotline.

- Among its charges, the task force will field and respond to questions and concerns from central offices and campuses; advise the Office of the Chancellor; make policy and/or procedural recommendations; and coordinate with City and State offices.
- A dedicated [Email Hotline](#) will address concerns and inquiries from the CUNY community as well as provide basic information, referrals, guidance, and support. The hotline is meant for questions or concerns regarding CUNY's readiness and response plan. For questions or concerns regarding the coronavirus *itself*, call the NYS Coronavirus Health Hotline (1-888-364-3065).

Knowledge Is Power

The Email Hotline is just one of the ways in which questions and/or concerns can be addressed. I also encourage you to use the resources that CUNY has marshalled on its [Coronavirus Update webpage](#).

Continuity of Services

At Baruch, we are exploring continuity options and procedures, including alternate class-delivery methods, which could be put in place if the situation warrants. And although at this point, such a decision is not under consideration, Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs James McCarthy is leading efforts to prepare the Baruch community for the potential challenges we might face. Read more in his message "[Teaching in the Time of COVID-19.](#)"

This is a time for caution, vigilance, and concern and not a time for panic or stigmatization. Along with CUNY, we are working to ensure the safety and well-being of students, faculty, and staff, as well as the delivery of services.

Sincerely,

Mitchel B. Wallerstein, PhD
President

Baruch
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