

## **Important Announcement Regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

The safety and well-being of our students and staff are top priorities at Triton College. With the 2019 Novel Coronavirus making local and national headlines, we feel it is important to share with you information about COVID-19 and the college's preventative measures that are always in place.

While there are no reported cases on our campus, there is one reported case of Coronavirus in Suburban Cook County. Public health officials are working to identify and actively monitor individuals who were in contact with the individual in an effort to reduce the risk of additional transmission. The state of Illinois also plans to ask the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to deploy a team for assistance.

The Illinois Department of Public Health is working with the state's local health department to provide timely information about the spread of this virus. The Cook County Department of Public Health would notify officials from Triton College immediately if any additional steps were needed to protect students and staff against the Coronavirus.

### **Here is what you need to know about the Coronavirus:**

- Currently, the immediate risk to most Americans is low.
- Symptoms of the Coronavirus are similar to those of the flu and may include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.
- Transmission is the same as the flu; the air by coughing and sneezing, close personal contact, touching an object or surface with the virus on it then touching mouth/eyes/nose.
- Prevention includes washing hands often with soap and water, avoid touching mouth/eyes/nose with unwashed hands, and avoid close contact with people who are sick. Get a flu shot if not done already. It is not too late.
- There is currently no vaccine to prevent Coronavirus. Anyone displaying symptoms of the disease should treat the symptoms by taking pain and fever medications, drinking plenty of fluids and staying home to rest.

To prevent any communicable diseases, we always stress with students and staff the importance of hand hygiene, covering cough, and staying home when sick. Triton's Operations and Maintenance staff will continue to be diligent with all cleaning practices across campus. This includes daily sanitization of high-touch surfaces such as door handles, faucets, handrails, classroom and lab desktops, etc. Everyone is encouraged to take universal precautions, including frequent hand washing.

If we learn any updates regarding the Coronavirus in Illinois, please know we would communicate with you immediately and take the necessary steps to keep our students and staff safe.

The Illinois Department of Public Health has launched a statewide hotline, 800-889-3931, to answer any Coronavirus-related questions from the public or to report a suspected case.

For more information about the Coronavirus please visit the following websites:

**Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH):**

<https://www.cookcountypublichealth.org/communicable-diseases/novel-coronavirus/>

**Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH):**

<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus>

**Center for Disease Control (CDC):**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

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