

COVID-19 Update: 03-11-2020

Dear Stone Academy Community,

Over the past few weeks, the coronavirus (COVID-19) has found a foothold in the United States and more recently in a limited fashion, within our local communities. It is with this in mind, that I am writing you to provide an update on Stone Academy's preparedness to address the situation. I do so to remain transparent and will be as forthcoming as possible in order to provide insight into various levels of the institution's efforts. As we move forward, expect additional communication from my office while our response evolves due to work with our regulators, local community representatives, and other academic institutions.

First and foremost, I want to make it extremely clear that I do not foresee any academic interruptions that will delay the graduation date of our students or effect the employment of any faculty or staff. This is not to say that academic disruptions will not occur, but we have developed multiple contingencies to ensure that students can rely on their current timeline to graduation and that faculty and staff will not see any disruption in employment.

At the time of writing this letter, the threat of exposure to COVID-19 is low, with only three positive cases identified within the State of Connecticut. This means that the majority of the institution's focus will be on prevention and monitoring, both of which will require a certain degree of responsibility for each individual as well as the institution. To start, we would like all students, staff, and faculty to be aware of the CDC's prevention recommendations, which are provided in this letter and posters around campus. These include relatively basic but vital steps that should be followed regularly during any flu season, and are especially important now. Furthermore, recognizing the symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, coughing, or shortness of breath) and staying home if you feel sick is a necessary precaution.

The institution has taken two specific preventive measures to ensure the safety and well-being of our entire community. This includes the implementation of a cleaning regimen that utilizes disinfectants intended to kill the virus and travel surveys that will require individuals to report any out of state travel. The latter measure will allow us to engage specific precautions based upon the nature and location of said travel.

In the coming days we will specifically address measures aimed at academic continuity in the scenario that an individual is not able to attend regularly scheduled classes, or in the event that the campus needs to provide instruction in a remote capacity. I expect to write to you before the end of the week with additional developments in these areas.

In the interim, please continue to practice proper hygiene techniques, and do not hesitate to reach out to your Campus Director with any specific questions.

I am working diligently to address the situation and will personally oversee all efforts.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Bierbaum
President