



# ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE OF NURSING

## IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION ON COVID-19

St. Joseph's College of Nursing (SJCON) is being proactive in an effort to prevent the potential transmission of illness and to continue the important work of SJCON without interruption.

Due to new meeting/event restrictions put in place by the Centers of Disease Control (CDC), Trinity Health has asked each of their ministries, including St. Joseph's Health, to adhere to these restrictions so as to limit additional risk of exposure to COVID-19. Thus, the St. Joseph's Health system will not be participating in or holding any external community events, or hosting any internal events with more than 20 people in attendance.

While there are currently no COVID-19 cases identified in Central New York, we are acting in abundance of caution to ensure we do not contribute to additional risk of exposure to the virus for our community. These guidelines are in effect until at least March 31st and will be reassessed at that time.

Therefore, we made the difficult decision to cancel the Commitment to Nursing Ceremony scheduled for March 22nd, 2020. The College is working on an alternative plan to recognize the accomplishments of the Level 1 students.

**Also, effective today, Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 4PM, face-to-face classes, simulation, labs, and clinical experiences will be suspended until further notice. However, during this time all students are required to continue their theory and clinical coursework remotely. Please understand that the virtual classrooms, labs, and clinical experiences are mandatory. More information regarding the links for remote access will be sent as soon as possible.**

Please note, these alternative plans will not affect progression in your program or jeopardize your program completion. We are taking action to ensure that student progression will not be impacted.

Please check Canvas and your emails at least daily for any updates. Your course leaders will be in contact with you beginning today, March 11, 2020 for more details regarding how to access virtual theory classes, virtual clinical, and exam/quizzes. Additionally, faculty will plan for virtual office hours. Prior to March 20, 2020, the college will re-evaluate further need for virtual classrooms, clinical experiences, and testing.

### **Please review the information below from my previous directive:**

All students and employees who have traveled abroad for any reason, especially to Level 2 or 3 countries identified below by the CDC as of March 9, 2020 that have a Level 2 or 3 Travel Health Notice are asked to report the travel by using the [travel declaration form](#):

1. China
2. Iran
3. Italy
4. South Korea
5. Japan

Once submitted, it will be sent to either Human Resources or Student Services (depending on how you identify yourself). All information will be treated confidentially. ***This form should be completed for any international travel done since February 15***, and for anyone with upcoming travel. Having this information on-hand will keep SJCON officials informed as we work with local, regional or national organizations to address this situation.

Please take the time to research the impact of the Coronavirus on your destination ([the CDC has a travel information page that can be a resource](#)), and carefully consider whether a change in your itinerary might avoid the possibility that your freedom of movement may become restricted due to health precautions.

**Self-Isolation** – When we are made aware of any individual who has traveled to countries that are at risk, we will ask that person to **voluntarily self-isolate** at home for a period of 14 days. Each case will be evaluated individually to determine how this will be done and what accommodations need to be made.

**Ongoing Education** – In an effort to provide our campus with the most accurate and up-to-date information about COVID-19 (Coronavirus), there is a dedicated [page on SJHEN](#) as new guidelines become available. There is educational information on this page direct from the CDC and Trinity Health. The page provides real-time education on how to identify a person that may have the illness, how to isolate them and who to notify.

The spread of the coronavirus is a fluid situation worldwide and continues to unfold. It is vitally important that all members of SJCON continue to take precautions and exercise good preventative health practices. The [CDC recommends everyday preventative actions](#) to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
  - CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
  - Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for [health workers](#) and [people who are taking care of someone in close settings](#) (at home or in a health care facility).
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
  - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

As part of the area's leading health care system, it is important that we lead by example in keeping in mind our mission and the best interests of our SJCON family. We apologize for any inconvenience. Thank you for your understanding and ongoing support. We will continue to update you with new information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,



Marianne Markowitz  
VP/Dean, St. Joseph's College of Nursing