As you all know, the novel coronavirus formally called SARS-CoV-2, continues to be a global issue. It causes a respiratory illness called COVID-19. Over the past few days, you have received updates from the RUSH Incident Command Center with pertinent information about the extensive preparations and response initiated at RUSH. Please continue to read these updates, as they contain valuable information for everyone.

In coordination with this central effort, Rush University leaders formed a University Command Center (UCC) to respond specifically to the needs and concerns of students, faculty and staff. The goals of UCC include prioritizing your safety and well-being and providing you with frequent, factual communication about COVID-19.

To ensure you are consistently informed, updates from the UCC will be provided weekdays, midafternoon, via University_News@rush.edu. Key information also will be posted to the Rush University portal, and updates will be provided on Twitter from @RushUniversity. This information will include the most accurate and current information available from Rush Infection Prevention and Control and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

This is what you need to know now:

- Classes will resume on Monday, March 9, 2020 as scheduled.
- If you are returning from a trip to China, Iran, South Korea, Italy or Japan, are feeling ill or may have been exposed to the virus, call Employee and Corporate Health Services immediately, (312) 942-5878 for further instruction. (Learn about COVID-19 exposure and symptoms.)
- Keep a close eye on your calendars – some university events and activities may be postponed or cancelled to limit the possibility of exposure.
- Rush University Medical Center admitted its first confirmed COVID-19 patient on Thursday. We are providing care to this individual. Rush is built for managing these types of infections.
• The absolute best defense against this Coronavirus is HANDWASHING. Please be very vigilant regarding hand hygiene. Use soap and water whenever possible or hand cleaner. Believe it or not, there is an effective way to wash your hands – take a look at this video. [Watch the Video]

Please keep in mind that the spread of COVID-19 changes daily, and our recommendations regarding your safety may change quickly, as well.

Finally, we want to listen and respond to your individual concerns and situations.

For questions about your academic program, classes, clinical rotations or labs, and travel related to your studies, please contact your dean using the address below for a prompt response:

Rush Medical College      covid19RMC@rush.edu
College of Nursing        covid19CON@rush.edu
College of Health Sciences covid19CHS@rush.edu
Graduate College          covid19GC@rush.edu