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**Subject:** Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Dear Students:

As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak takes center stage globally, we, here at Rhodes State need to be prepared and take all necessary steps to prevent the spread of this virus. As the outbreak evolves, we continue to monitor guidelines and recommendations from local, state and federal officials. The situation is changing rapidly, and the College is responding in kind. The best way to prevent the spread of any type of infection — including the flu, which is much more prevalent in the United States — is to practice routine hygiene etiquette.

In the next few weeks, you will notice new hand sanitizer stations around campus. Please use them OFTEN! We encourage you to follow the guidelines listed below to keep yourself and those around you from catching this virus.

- If you are experiencing symptoms of acute respiratory illness, we encourage you to stay home. Please contact your professor about the criteria for making up work if missing class for an extended period of time.
- The Ohio Department of Health has established a process for local departments of health to manage self-quarantine and self-monitoring requirements.

Prevention:

The CDC advises that the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus. Here are everyday actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- 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.
- If you are ill, keep a safe distance from others to reduce the risk of transmitting germs.
- If you are seriously ill, seek medical advice from your health care provider or from an emergency department.
- Watch this video on proper handwashing techniques: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d914EnpU4Fo&feature=youtu.be>

What are the Symptoms of the Corona Virus?

- Symptoms include: Fever, Cough and Shortness of Breath. Person-to-person spread is occurring, although it's unclear exactly how it is transmitted and how easily the virus spreads between people.
- Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure
- Seek Medical advice if you develop these symptoms, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

Go to the [Ohio Department of Health's website](#) for more information. Go to <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home/resources/novel-coronavirus-faqs> for Frequently Asked Questions about the virus. We will continue to send updates as college, local and federal guidelines change. The safety and well-being of our community is our top priority.

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