SINCLAIR COLLEGE

**PANDEMIC ILLNESS RESPONSE**

**COVID-19 Update to
Sinclair Employees #4**

**Details to Emerge on Work-from-Home Arrangements
Sunday, March 15, 2020**



Dear Colleagues,

Just a quick note to assure you that Sinclair’s leadership team continues to build and implement plans to provide for ever increasing physical distancing and toward holding only small group convenings.  We are on track to work with all of you to implement work-from-home practices in the next few days.

Meetings of the senior administrators and faculty/staff presidents, and of department groups, have occurred all weekend. Decisions are being made and we at Sinclair are becoming safer and safer with each step we take as the threat outside increases. We are in frequent contact with various staff within the Governor’s and Chancellor’s offices.

We will begin quickly this week to implement “skeleton crews” across Sinclair. The time that we as “Sinclairians” spend at Sinclair sites will be greatly reduced over the coming weeks. However, there is no need at this time to completely shut down the college.  I am predicting that our collective efforts to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus will result in Sinclair never having to completely shut down the college. I expect that, in small numbers, we can work with small numbers of students at a time (in person and spread out), and large numbers of students, from a distance. Our community desperately needs our completers and graduates. We will slow down but we shall not stop!

One small, but big, example of why we must not stop:  We have several hundred Health Sciences students poised to finish in a few weeks. They will then go to work on the health care front lines to fight this pandemic.  This means that in the coming few weeks, as our local hospitals begin to admit more and more COVID-19 patients, more Sinclair graduates will be saving more lives. We need to get these students — who are so close to completing right now – over the finish line (and help those students behind them to progress and also move forward).

This insidious virus will likely be with us for many more weeks. We are very quickly learning to work around it. We are told that many very healthy people, who look and feel healthy, can easily already have the virus in their bodies and can be spreading it to the people who don’t wash their hands or keep a six-foot distance.  This while the next “sick” person you see coughing and wheezing simply has bad allergies and is not dangerous to us at all. Looks are deceiving with this once-in-a-lifetime virus, as the Ohio Director of Public Health has described it.  Please wash your hands and stay six feet away from everyone – “healthy-looking” or not.

If you are sick – if you have a fever, a cough, sore throat, and/or chest pain – do not come to work and go to your doctor.  Sick or not – please become compulsive about washing your hands, coughing into your sleeve, and staying six feet away from others.  Many people are rightfully concerned about this contagious disease and may mistake your seasonal allergy symptoms for something much more serious.

Thank you . . .

More in the coming day or two.

Steve

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