



XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA

Center of Health & Wellness

1 Drexel Drive • Box 36

New Orleans, Louisiana 70125-1098

Office: (504)520-7396 Fax: (504)520-7962

Dear Members of the Xavier Community,

As health officials continue to take steps to prepare for the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), I want you to be assured that Xavier has devoted a great deal of attention to this important developing health concern.

We are closely monitoring all information being sent to school administrators by federal, state and local health officials related to the university's role in the prevention effort. The University will disseminate information relevant to the health and safety of our learning community as it becomes available. The Xavier community may also keep abreast of current real-time updates by visiting the following sites: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention @ cdc.gov and World Health Organization @ who.int.

While at the current time there has been no imminent threat to our local community, we want to be ready should there be an outbreak. To this end, we are reviewing our emergency plans and assessing our protocols with a focus on those related to infectious diseases (such as seasonal flu, etc.). If there are any changes to our current procedures or protocols during this evolving situation, the Office of the President along with Student Health Services will update you.

Currently, there is no vaccine to prevent the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus. Please follow the CDC recommended preventative actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases by:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- 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.
- 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.

We don't yet know how long the COVID-19 virus can survive on surfaces, but we do know that most household cleaners will kill it. Wipe down frequently touched surfaces (faucet handles, doorknobs, bathroom sinks etc.) often.

Xavier University will address this situation with care and diligence. As the days ahead unfold with greater clarity about this situation Xavier is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for our students, faculty, staff and visitors.

Best Regards,

Dr. Robert Mercadel, Medical Director