

Dear Union County College Community,

Today an employee of the Plainfield campus self-reported to the College that they tested positive for COVID-19.

Per the [CDC](#), if you may have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider for medical advice. For 14 days after exposure, you should stay home except to get medical care and separate yourself from other people in your home.

If you have questions or need further guidance, resources within the State of New Jersey related to COVID-19 include:

Call: 2-1-1

Call (24/7): 1-800-962-1253

Text: NJCOVID to 898-211

We now join the ranks of a number of other New Jersey colleges, universities, school systems, and other institutions that have had a member of their community receive a positive diagnosis. With the increasing number of infections spreading throughout Union County and the State, we knew that the first positive case from within our own College community was a matter of when, not if.

At Union County College, we are doing what we can to help the County, State, and National effort to fight this pandemic.

We are working with the County of Union, Trinitas Regional Medical Center, and other health care agencies in opening up our shelves and providing medical supplies and personal protective equipment, from our nursing, allied health, and science laboratories.

Furthermore, we are in the process of inventorying healthcare equipment from all of our labs for potential use in local hospitals if necessary.

We are all in this together.

***Now more than ever I want to reiterate the need to stay at home and keep your distance.*** Earlier today, Governor Murphy issued an executive order directing all residents to stay at home. He indefinitely closed all nonessential retail businesses effective at 9pm tonight. There are limited exceptions to what will remain open, in addition to hospitals and medical facilities, and they include: grocery stores, food banks, pharmacies, medical supply stores, gas stations, banks, pet supply stores, and restaurants and bars providing takeout/delivery.

**What does this mean for the College?** It does not change our operations. Our campus buildings have been closed since Wednesday, March 18 at 6pm. ***The College remains OPEN remotely.*** Class instruction continues online through Canvas. Instructors are engaged in teaching and supporting our students. Our staff is working remotely and remains committed to helping students with Canvas, access to technology, and supporting the functions of the College.

Our thoughts are with our employee and their family during this time.

As this global health crisis directly impacts our College community, I ask that you all take care of one another. Support each other. Be safe.

Sincerely,

Dr. Margaret M. McMenamin

President