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April 7, 2020

TO: The John Jay College Community  
RE: Coronavirus Update and Resources  
Academic and Commencement Updates

While we have seen coronavirus cases growing in New York City, we can take some measure of comfort in the fact that social distancing is starting to work to stem the spread. The extraordinary steps we've taken to transition to distance learning and work remotely are helping us safeguard the health of our community. And our community is stepping up for our students in their time of need. In response to a generous matching grant, our donors have made it possible for us to increase our Student Emergency Fund by over **\$130,000** thanks to a special campaign last week. Other corporate donors have provided our students with laptops for their distance-learning use. I can't thank you all enough for what you are doing to help each other during this difficult time.

I hope and pray that every member of our community stays well and stays safe. I also recognize that during these anxious times, many of us feel stressed and overwhelmed. Please know that you're not alone in this. There are resources that are available to you and I share some of those below and encourage you to reach out and take advantage of them.

### **Mental Health Support**

It's critically important during these times to take care of our mental health as well. If you're feeling stressed or need a helping hand, please reach out and take advantage of the resources that are available to you.

- The Wellness Center is open and offering telecounseling. If you are a student in crisis or would like to speak to a counselor, please email Cory Head at [chead@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:chead@jjay.cuny.edu) or Gerard Bryant at [gbryant@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:gbryant@jjay.cuny.edu).
- Employees can access counseling services at 855-492-3633 or by logging in at the [Deer Oaks website](#) using "cuny" (all lowercase) as your username and password.
- There is also a hotline NYC WELL staffed 24/7 with counselors. NYC Well's website offers a number of emotional support applications (apps) that can help you cope. If you're dealing with overwhelming stress, please reach out to [NYC Well](#)—they can provide brief counseling and referrals

to care in over 200 languages.

- Call 888-NYC-WELL (888-692-9355)
- Text "WELL" to 65173
- Chat at [NYC.gov/nycwell](https://nyc.gov/nycwell)

### **Emergency Funding and Other Resources**

- **Emergency Funding:** If you are a student in need of emergency assistance, you can email [emergencyfunding@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:emergencyfunding@jjay.cuny.edu). If you are a student in need of a long-term laptop loan, you can request one by contacting the DOIT Helpdesk at [helpdesk@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:helpdesk@jjay.cuny.edu) and scheduling an appointment for pick-up.
- **New Pandemic Unemployment Benefits:** You should know that if you are experiencing unemployment as a result of the coronavirus situation, there are additional unemployment resources that may be available to you as a result of the CARES Act that was signed into law on March 27. Specifically, there are new unemployment benefits called Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) that are available to those who are not typically eligible for unemployment insurance, including self-employed/1099 workers, part time workers, and those who were not working for an extended period of time. Impacted students can apply by phone or online. More information can be found at:
  - <https://labor.ny.gov/ui/pdfs/pandemic-unemployment-assistance.pdf>
  - <https://www.labor.ny.gov/ui/cares-act.shtm>

**Other Resources:** If you are in need of food or housing assistance, or health care, unemployment, or other critical information, there are many city and state resources available to you.

- Please review the [Relief Resources and Supportive Information](#) guide that we've put together for you.
- As I've shared previously, you can continue to reach our campus offices using this handy guide to their [contact information](#). If you have specific questions, please email [AskJohnJay@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:AskJohnJay@jjay.cuny.edu). Please continue to visit the [CUNY](#) website and John Jay's [College website](#) for the latest and most accurate information and resources. I encourage students to take advantage of the [virtual activities](#) that have been put together for you during the remainder of this semester.

### **Coronavirus Cases**

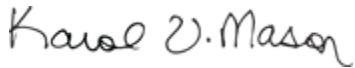
As always, if you are feeling sick, please contact your health provider. If you receive a positive coronavirus test result, please continue to contact our College liaison Malaine Clarke at [maclarke@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:maclarke@jjay.cuny.edu). She will work with you to gather information about the last time you were on campus and provide appropriate notifications to others in our community under the guidance of public health authorities.

### **Commencement Update**

As announced by Chancellor Matos Rodríguez in his [letter](#) on April 3, 2020, in-person commencement ceremonies across CUNY have been postponed due to the coronavirus situation. I know that this is disappointing to all of us as it's a celebration of academic success that is at the heart of our mission, but we can, and will, look forward to a future date and time when we can celebrate in person. In the meanwhile, we are thinking of creative ways to virtually mark the end of this unique spring semester and celebrate our resilient graduating class of 2020.

As you wrap up another week of Distance Learning and head into spring break, I want to take a moment to thank everyone for their extraordinary contributions during this fast-evolving situation. I marvel at how adaptable and resilient our community is. I hope you take some time in the next few days for self-care and relaxation. Take good care of yourselves and your loved ones.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karol V. Mason". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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President

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