To the UNH Manchester Community,

It is likely a safe assumption that everyone reading this note is generally aware of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation here in the U.S. During the last several weeks, you have received a range of university communications describing the response to this global challenge. The purpose of this note is to 1) remind everyone of the most important sources of information that you should access on a regular basis, 2) inform you of the local steps we are taking here on campus to support safety and good hygiene and 3) the preparations we are making to address the possibility of significant disruption to normal operations here at UNH Manchester.

UNH has developed a landing page that is intended to serve as a one-stop location for overall status and links to resources related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Please make yourself familiar with this information.

More general information about COVID-19 is available from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website. Specific COVID-19 symptoms are described here.

If you are experiencing symptoms of this infection, please stay at home and contact your health care provider. Students who choose to remain at home should inform their instructor(s) via email that they will not be able to attend face-to-face classes. Members of staff and faculty should inform their immediate managers or department chairs, respectively.

Here at the UNH Manchester campus, we have installed new hand sanitizer dispensers on each floor near the elevators. Although regular hand washing is the most important hygienic practice, hand sanitizer has also proven helpful in reducing transmission of potentially dangerous bacteria and viruses. We have also increased routine environmental cleaning including disinfecting frequently touched surfaces on campus like handrails, doorknobs and light switches, and the like. Additionally, we will have instructive banners about handwashing in public areas, bathrooms and kitchens.

At the current time, there are no recommended restrictions on travel within the U.S., but this is an emerging situation that is subject to change. For all travel we recommend reviewing information from the U.S. State Department and the CDC. More information about UNH travel instructions, including international travel, can be found here.

Public events will continue here at UNH Manchester. Students should continue to report to their work study jobs, internships and other events as scheduled unless experiencing the symptoms referenced above.

Finally, we are evaluating carefully how we might be able to continue operations under a circumstance that campus is either partially or completely closed. No decisions have been made in this regard. Migrating our classes to an online mode is straightforward in some cases and challenging in others (e.g. laboratory classes). Please continue to check your email for updates about college operations as well as sign up for campus alerts.

If you have questions that you feel are not sufficiently answered by the information provided at the UNH or CDC websites, or this email, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at 603-741-4107 or mike.decelle@unh.edu.