

Update from Dean Michael T. Cahill on COVID-19 Response Planning

March 9, 2020

I write with further updates regarding our response to the COVID-19 outbreak, and specifically to inform you that **(1) all campus events will be suspended starting one week from today; and (2) we will conduct all classes remotely for at least a brief period after spring break.** If, for any reason, it becomes necessary to modify our current plans to remain open for the remainder of this week, we will notify you immediately.

At present, no members of our community have tested positive for COVID-19 or been subject to quarantine, and we continue to think the present risk of exposure on our campus is low. However, reports and ongoing updates from the state authorities and the CDC indicate strongly that the trend over time is toward increasing levels of exposure. Accordingly, before we directly encounter the virus, in order to effectuate plans to address its likely spread, and to give as much advance notice as possible, we think it preferable to make decisions now, rather than react later.

Therefore, in keeping with [a similar announcement from Princeton University this morning](#), we are announcing now that we are suspending campus events effective March 16, and conducting all classes remotely effective March 23. On-campus events and classes will resume no sooner than Monday, March 30. As the situation unfolds, we will reassess and follow up as soon as possible with information about whether the suspension of activities will continue beyond then. Faculty will be contacted soon about training sessions to facilitate the remote class sessions that will occur starting March 23.

Note that the Law School is not shutting down during this time. Regular operations, other than classes and events, will continue; our buildings and the library will remain open. This action is intended to promote “social distancing” and reduce the frequency of the group interactions at close quarters that maximize the likelihood of the virus spreading.

If you are spending spring break at your permanent home, we encourage you to consider staying there for the time being and taking classes remotely. If you live in Feil Hall, please exercise caution and discretion in determining whether to have guests and visitors from elsewhere staying in your apartment over the break.

It is regrettable that among the on-campus events we must cancel is our annual Prince Moot Court Competition, which was scheduled for March 26 to 28. This was not an easy decision as hosting this event is a highlight of our academic year.

If you have health concerns for yourself or a loved one that might affect your ability to attend classes this week, please contact the Dean of Students, Jennifer Lang. We will continue to make every effort to accommodate justified absences.

Thank you all for your patience and support of the Law School and each other during a stressful and disorienting time.

If you have any questions, please contact **Mercedes Ravelo, Director of Public Safety, at 718-780-7942 or at mercedes.ravelo@brooklaw.edu.**