Student Health Center Guidance for Students:
The Student Health Center (SHC) has been in communication with the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) regarding the Novel Coronavirus and the disease it causes: COVID-19. We are offering students the following guidance:

- **The following students should NOT return to campus:**
  - Students (located at their family home) ill with fever, cough, shortness of breath should NOT return to campus. Call your private health care provider.
  - E-mail your professors and the Dean of Students Office to report extended absences: DOSOffice@Fairfield.edu.

- **Access to the SHC (students approved to stay on campus spring 2020):**
  - All students requesting a clinical visit must call the SHC first. Our phone number is: 203-254-4000, Ext. 2241.
  - Students requesting a visit will be asked certain screening questions by phone.
  - Students meeting certain criteria will be cared for by SHC clinicians wearing required Personal Protective Equipment.

- **New SHC Hours of Operation**
  - The SHC hours of operation have changed. For the remainder of the semester, the SHC will be operational 10am-4pm seven days a week.

- **COVID-19 Testing**
  - Presently, the guidance from the CT Department of Public Health is that individuals with mild respiratory symptoms and fever should not go to a hospital emergency department for COVID-19 testing. These individuals should stay home/at least 6 feet away from others and call the SHC or their private Health Care Provider.
  - At this time, the CT Department of Public Health is prioritizing testing for patients admitted to an acute care hospital with severe lower respiratory disease, but efforts are underway to make testing more accessible. Students living in congregate settings will be prioritized for testing.

- **Actions to Take if Ill**
  - Students with cough, fever, mild shortness of breath should call the SHC or their Health Care Provider, stay home/at least 6 feet away from others and follow all the hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene measures listed below. Any student experiencing difficulty breathing or distress should call Public Safety at 203-254-4090.
  - Students experiencing mild respiratory symptoms or fever which develops after the SHC is closed should stay home/at least 6 feet away from others, follow all the hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene measures listed below and call the SHC in the morning. Any student experiencing difficulty breathing or distress should call Public Safety at 203-254-4090.
SHC COVID-19 Guidance

- Students with immunosuppression or underlying medical conditions should contact the SHC or their private Health Care Provider early in the course of even mild illness.
- Here is the CDC guidance on actions to take if ill: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html.

**Preventing COVID-19 Exposure and Transmission**

As a reminder, the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus. CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60-90% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- 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.

Additionally, during COVID-19 pandemic conditions: Stay home as much as possible and put distance between yourself and other people (keep about 6 feet between yourself and others). This is particularly important for older adults and people of any age with serious underlying medical conditions who might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g. grocery stores or pharmacies) especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

**Helpful Items to have on hand:**
- A digital thermometer, tissues, disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, and over the counter medication (such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen)

**Resources for students with health questions or students feeling anxious:**
- Students may contact the Student Health Center: 203-254-4000, Ext. 2241 or Counseling and Psychological Services: 203-254-4000, Ext. 2146

4/7/20