

March 21, 2020

Dear College of Law Community,

Some of you have asked whether we plan to disclose every known case of COVID-19 impacting a Syracuse University or College of Law student, staff, or faculty member, and the details of such a case. We have consulted with University COVID-19 officials, and given current conditions, the answer to the question is no. Here's why.

Contrary to previous phases of the COVID-19 spread, when containment was thought possible, COVID-19 is now prevalent in many communities across the US. With respect to the case I referenced yesterday, this particular student could have been anywhere in Dineen Hall or elsewhere on campus and might have interacted with any number of other faculty, staff, and other students, perhaps dozens of individuals.

Even if we could track down everyone this student might have come in contact with and notify them, there is nothing any of those individuals could do that is different from current protocols.

As we now know from the many official briefings on this topic, at the moment unless someone is sick, [with pertinent symptoms](#), they will not be tested for the virus. If someone *is* sick, they will be tested in due course. Proximity to a case will not lead to testing; only actual symptoms will.

In addition, given the range of places we—and the people with whom we've been in contact—have been in the last two weeks, any one of us could have interacted with someone carrying the virus, either on or off campus.

Because we are just as likely to have been exposed to COVID-19 by someone else, somewhere else, we can take little comfort in knowing we weren't in a particular classroom or in the same office as a person who now turns up positive.

Each of us must remain vigilant in abiding by state and local mandates, which for many of us now include restrictions on movement away from our homes. Be attentive to your health, and if you develop the symptoms of COVID-19, please consult with your medical provider.

Many thanks for your kind words of support and encouragement in response to the College of Law's ongoing monitoring of COVID-19 and its impact on all we do. We will persevere, together.

Best regards,

Craig M. Boise

Dean and Professor | College of Law