Dear Students,

Today, President Raab sent an email communication assuring the Hunter College community of her commitment to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and staff as we encounter the rapidly-changing situation related to COVID-19 (please see the email below).

I want to underscore that we here at Silberman are also deeply committed to the safety and well-being of our school community. Towards that end, we have been in close contact with the university, college, the National Association of Deans and Directors of Social Work, the New York State Association of Deans, the NYSED, and our accrediting body, CSWE.

You will be receiving shortly an email from the Field Education department providing guidelines particular to your field practicum. Again, as circumstances are rapidly changing, we will continue to update you promptly.

There is currently no disruption in classes. However, we are in the process of contingency planning if, in fact, there is a disruption of in-class classroom learning and/or field placements.

We strongly encourage you to follow CDC guidelines [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html) regarding COVID-19. If you are in need of additional support, please do not hesitate to reach out to your instructors, the Field Education department, field advisors, student services, and/or the Counseling and Wellness Services at (212) 772-4931 or by email at personalcounseling@hunter.cuny.edu.

Please continue to regularly check your email for updated information.

As we continue to assess the evolving situation related to COVID-19, please be assured that Hunter is taking the situation very seriously and working actively to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and staff. We understand that this is an anxious time; we plan to email comprehensive guidance later in the day covering our various contingency plans.

In the meantime, we want to reiterate that Hunter has taken precautions as recommended by the CDC guidelines around prevention. We have enhanced cleaning protocols and are fully stocked with disinfecting products, including hand sanitizer. As we will explain in more detail in the forthcoming memo, we are working on remote teaching options should on-site learning be disrupted. We are also looking into solutions for the potential disruption of clinical placements due to our COVID-19 precautionary measures. In the meantime, if you have any specific concerns not already addressed, please contact your program or department chair.

While the CDC notes that the risk to New Yorkers remains low, we acknowledge how important it is to respond to developments and institute preventative measures. We strongly encourage the Hunter community to follow the CDC guidelines surrounding COVID-19. These include regular handwashing and hand sanitizing, flu vaccination, covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when sneezing or coughing, and not touching your face with unwashed hands.

Please check your email for memos. Thank you for all you do for Hunter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer J. Raab