

Message dated March 4, 2020 from Florian Becker, Managing Director, Bard College Berlin

Dear Bard College Berlin Community,

I am writing to you with the update I promised yesterday: I am very glad to report that the Bard College Berlin student who was exposed to the infected individual was tested and the test was negative. This means that it is not possible that anybody would have contracted the virus from this student. Irrespective of this happy result, the student will remain in quarantine until March 14, 2020.

While health authorities have never requested or recommended any additional measures, we elected to have six other students self-quarantine. For five of them there is now no reason to remain isolated, and they can resume their normal lives as students and community members effective immediately. The one other student who was in self-quarantine was also tested, and also tested negative. Paradoxically and for legal reasons only--because she was tested--we have to wait until she receives official clearance from the health department before she can resume her normal life. The college is grateful to all six students for the abundant consideration they have displayed for the health of our community.

Though health authorities have never requested or advised cancellations of any kind, as a precautionary measure the college cancelled all classes on Monday and Tuesday (March 2 and 3) while timelines of exposure and contact were established and double checked. We resumed business as usual starting this morning (March 4). Students must attend classes as usual. Students who are feeling sick or ill should continue to exercise caution and *not* attend classes.

The health and safety of our students remains our highest priority. We will remain in close contact with the health authorities in Berlin. Transparency is essential within the current global and local health situation. Bard College Berlin will notify the community immediately if any change in the health situation merits an adjustment to normal campus operations and class formats. Otherwise, there will be no further community updates regarding this topic.

If you have further questions, you may contact Brian Gallagher, Head of Student Life (b.gallagher@berlin.bard.edu). We ask for your understanding that queries may not be answered immediately.