

To: Vincent Boudreau, CCNY president
From: Ethon Deonarine, CCNY student
Date: February 18, 2021
Subject: Implementation of touch free hand sanitizer dispenser

The purpose of this memo is to recommend that our college establishment works on the execution of instating additional touch free hand sanitizers. This is to appease concerns for the COVID-19 virus upon return to the college campus and to provide healthier environments and working conditions for us all.

Summary

Currently, there are one hundred forty-seven sanitizing stations spread across certain common spaces on campus. I propose that we add more sanitizing stations around the entrances such as stairwells and to include sanitizers with at least a seventy percent alcohol percentage. I would like to discuss further about the proposal when most convenient for you.

Discussion

The COVID-19 virus as I am sure you are well informed is taking colleges by storm. Returning to campus is a controversial subject that students tend to have conflicted feelings about. While I, by no means, mean to discredit the work you and the Office of Facilities management have accomplished, I believe we can combat the stigma of returning with the increase of sanitizing stations. There are one hundred forty-seven stations at common areas, however, there should be a surplus in areas where there inevitably will be high traffic. For example, stairwells will become quite popular in comparison to elevators due to the nature of compact spaces.

The inclusion of more sanitizer dispensers also helps alleviate some of the stigma around returning to campus. It is difficult for students who are on the safer side when it comes to the virus to fully accept coming back to class. By instating additional stations, we are creating a safer environment for students especially considering that the virus is currently mutating. Additionally, areas with high population such as classrooms would greatly benefit by having sanitizing stations outside the room entrance. Another location that would benefit from this would-be vending machines which are located farther from the cafeteria. Students will feel less inclined to bring gloves if their hands are going to be clean throughout their day. Gloves will be impractical and ineffective if you remove them often and the sanitizers will reduce the germs spread from gloves to hands.

The CDC suggests that alcohol content in hand sanitizers should be approximately at least 60% to 95%. As it stands, the current hand sanitizer solution in our sanitizing stations contains 60% and complies with current CDC standards. However, as of recent, research suggests that 70% alcohol is suggested when it comes to treating bacteria including the COVID-19 virus. Furthermore, it is also shown that sanitizers with an alcohol concentration of 70% can be left on surfaces for at least 30 seconds to ensure the killing of bacteria including corona virus. These surfaces include and are not limited to cellphones and desks. I believe with great certainty students will also use the sanitizing stations to clean their devices and a sanitizer with 70% alcohol concentration will be more effective than our current sixty percent solution.

Recommendation

I am thankful for you taking your time to look over this proposal and I would like to discuss the subject and additional plans at whatever time is most convenient for you. In terms of our pending discussion, I encourage the invitation of other members of the CCNY Faculty to discuss and provide their perspective. You can contact me at ethondeonarine@gmail.com to arrange our meeting.