

Thursday March 18, 2021

Office of the President

## **NYSUM & COVID-19**

Dear NYSUM Partners,

Greetings from the Frontlines of NYC!

As NYSUM began our annual Spring Break Outreach a year ago, the coronavirus hit NYC like a subway train! All 3 Governors from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut had declared a State of Emergency to deal with the pandemic. In addition, the stock market was plunging more every day. Needless to say, between news reports and social media, FEAR had gripped the city and nation.

Fast forward to this spring 2021, I'm happy to report that the NYSUM Campus is FREE from COVID-19! However, we are actively monitoring the pandemic minute by minute, as well as the ever changing city and state guidelines. As the infection rate and positive testing in NYC are considerably dropping, vaccination becoming gradually available, along with the quarantine restrictions being lifted from domestic travel starting April 1<sup>st</sup> as well, we're getting ready to receive waves of laborers coming to reap the harvest this summer!

That said, at NYSUM over this past year we've taken PROACTIVE MEASURES to ensure that our Staff and Guests remain safe. We've deployed our Housekeeping & Maintenance Staff, beyond the regular day to day cleaning, to take on the HUGE project of DEEP CLEANING OUR CAMPUS day and night, providing a healthy environment. We added extra steps for DEEP CLEANING the NYSUM campus such as, but not limited to: dormitory rooms, doors, door knobs, chairs, showers, elevators, staircase handrails, light switches, vans and so much more several times a day. Our maintenance staff has also added several HAND SANITIZING STATIONS throughout our campus facility. Temperature checks, mandatory mask wearing and social distancing in common/public spaces has also been implemented. This is an UNENDING, LABOR INTENSIVE PROJECT which is VERY COSTLY to say the least – but one we are committed to for the well-being of everyone. We've had to hire more staff, purchased more cleaning/hand sanitizing supplies and equipment – all to keep our campus virus free!

While the coronavirus has hit our city and nation, we pray it will eventually dissipate over time. However, the spiritual and physical needs of people who are living on the edge, never dissipates!

We still have mission teams coming to NYSUM for summer 2021. They are actively being deployed in "hands-on" ministry with our Food Truck and serving Pastors and Churches in other evangelistic outreaches – reaching people who are struggling with the effects of Covid-19 with the Good News that JESUS, SAVES, HEALS AND DELIVERS! If your church wants to catch up on the Kingdom work that the pandemic wanted to stop, or looking for alternatives for cancelled foreign trips, we invite you to come join us this year and minister to a city almost broken by COVID-19. Together we'll reclaim New York City for Christ!

**Yours for Urban Ministry,**



**Rev. Peter & Darleen DeArruda**  
NYSUM President

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