Interviewing Tips – Coronavirus (COVID-19) Precautions

The presence and spread of COVID-19, or Coronavirus, may affect students who are actively engaged in the job search process. Many employers are modifying their interviewing protocols to switch from in-person interviews to video formats. Live networking receptions are also being curtailed. And for those that are not making these changes, they may have questions about safety precautions for their own health and welfare.

Here are some tips to keep in mind:

- **Brush up on your phone screener interviewing skills.**
  - Review our tips to prepare for phone interviews
  - Do a mock interview with a CP&P counselor by phone.
  - Additional resources:
    - Tips for a Successful Phone Interview
    - 5 Tips for Nailing a Phone Screen

- **Brush up on your video and Zoom/Skype interviewing skills.**
  - Review our tips to prepare for video interviewing
  - Practice online with InterviewStream.
  - Do a Zoom/Skype mock interview with a CP&P counselor.
  - Additional resources:
    - How to Prepare for a Skype Interview
    - 5 Essential Tips for Video and Skype Interviews

- **Prepare for one-way video interviews.**
  - If coronavirus continues to spread in the U.S., it’s likely that video interviewing will become the norm nationwide (even before the arrival of the virus, video interviewing was on the rise). This means that it’s a good time to work on your one-way video interviewing skills and to brush up on how to best prepare yourself for success.
  - Practice online with InterviewStream.
  - Review these resources to learn how to be successful in one-way video interviews:
    - 4 Strategies for Nailing the Video Interview
    - 3 Tips for Surviving a One-Way Video Interview

- **Explore alternatives to live networking receptions.**
  - Attend video alternatives – if the firm is hosting a web meeting, go to it!
  - Connect with legal employers by telephone and email.
  - Set up virtual meetings using links like Zoom, Google Hangouts, GoToMeeting.
  - ITS Instructions for a Zoom Video

- **If you are interviewing in person, adhere to the University’s guidance to help avoid catching or spreading the virus:**
  - Do not shake hands. Be sure to acknowledge that you are following safety guidelines “I would normally shake your hand, but in light of the coronavirus, I understand that we
should refrain from doing so.” Or “I’m just worried about coronavirus spreading and want to do my part to help minimize its spread.” It may feel awkward if someone reaches out their hand to you, but that awkwardness outweighs the possible negative outcomes.

- Wash your hands regularly, especially after meetings and travel. You should also wash your hands before and after your interview.
- Bring hand sanitizer of at least 60% alcohol with you on your interviews.

✓ Check with employers to be sure that their events have not been cancelled. If so, ask if they are switching to a video alternative or if there are other ways for you to participate.