1. What is a coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which may cause illness in animals or humans. In humans, several coronaviruses are known to cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases. Source: WHO

2. What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is the infectious disease caused by the most recently discovered coronavirus. This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. It has since spread throughout China and to other countries and territories, including the United States. Source: WHO

3. How does COVID-19 spread?

People can catch COVID-19 from others who have the virus. The disease can spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth that land in the environment when an infected person coughs or exhales. Other people catch COVID-19 by touching affected objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, noses, or mouths. People can also catch COVID-19 if they breathe in droplets from an infected person who coughs or exhales. It is important to stay more than three feet away from a person who is sick. Source: WHO

4. What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

The most common symptoms are fever, tiredness, and a dry cough. Some patients may develop aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat, or diarrhea. Symptoms are usually mild and begin gradually. Some people become infected but don't develop any symptoms and don't feel unwell. People with fever, cough, and difficulty breathing should seek medical attention. Sources: WHO and CDCP

5. Am I at risk for developing a serious illness from COVID-19?

While we are still learning about how COVID-2019 affects people, older persons and persons with pre-existing medical conditions (such as high blood pressure, heart disease, lung disease, cancer, or diabetes) appear to develop serious illness more often than others. Most people (about 80%) recover from the disease without needing special treatment. Around one out of every six people who gets COVID-19 becomes seriously ill and develops difficulty breathing. Sources: WHO and CDCP
6. **What can I do to protect myself and prevent the spread of disease?**

You can reduce your chances of being infected or spreading COVID-19 by taking simple precautions:

- Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.
- Maintain at least three feet of distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.
- Avoid animals (alive or dead), animal markets, and products that come from animals (such as uncooked meat).
- Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance. Follow the directions of your local health authority.
- Stay informed on the latest developments about COVID-19. Follow advice given by your healthcare provider, your national and local public health authority or your employer on how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

Sources: WHO and CDCP and BPHC

7. **What is the Boston Athenæum doing to provide a clean environment at work?**

- Providing additional daily cleaning services by Facilities staff using approved anti-virus/bacterial cleaners.
- Contracting with cleaning services to perform deep sanitization of bathrooms, kitchens, and common areas.
- Providing visible and accessible stations on each non-gallery floor to supply hand sanitizer, wipes, and facial tissues.
- Installing signs explaining proper hand-cleansing technique in restrooms.
- Providing sanitary wipes for users at computer stations.
- Encouraging staff and members to follow the guidelines issued by public health authorities, including staying home when ill.
- Director of Safety and Security Tyrone Smith is monitoring updates about the outbreak and working closely with peers in the field.

Amy Ryan/Emily Cure | March 5, 2020