

January 28, 2020

Dear Iowa State Community,

I know many of you have questions and concerns about the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak. I want to share with you the steps the university is taking in response and assure you that we are working closely with public health officials to monitor the situation.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the immediate risk to be low. At this time, the U.S. has five confirmed cases, none of which are in Iowa. [Thielen Student Health Center](#) and local health organizations are following CDC guidance for screening and triage of patients. As the situation is changing rapidly, TSHC continues to partner with the CDC and Iowa Department of Public Health to share the most up-to-date information with campus.

To limit any potential risk, Iowa State is prohibiting student and employee business travel to China, until travel is deemed safe. This decision is in accordance with advisories from the CDC and the U.S. Department of State urging travelers to reconsider travel to China due to the coronavirus. If you have recently traveled to China or plan to go this spring, contact the Office of Risk Management ([intlrisk@iastate.edu](mailto:intlrisk@iastate.edu), 515-294-7711) for additional information.

To keep you informed as the situation changes, we will regularly post updates and health information at: [Cyclonehealth.org/2019coronavirus](https://cyclonehealth.org/2019coronavirus). There you will find links to the CDC and Iowa Department of Public Health. Employees are encouraged to contact their medical providers with additional questions.

There are steps you can take to limit your risk for any illness. Our health experts encourage the campus community to practice infection control strategies including:

- Cleaning your hands regularly with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Covering your nose and mouth with a tissue or flexed elbow when coughing and sneezing

There are many rumors circulating on social media about the coronavirus outbreak. Before you share any information, consider if it is coming from a reputable source, such as the CDC or public health agency.

It is also important that we are supportive of our colleagues and students from China who may be concerned for family and friends in areas significantly affected by the outbreak. For those in need of additional support, please reach out to our [campus resources](#).

Sincerely,

Wendy Wintersteen  
President