

March 10, 2020

Dear Iowa State Community:

More Iowa cases, health precautions

The Iowa Department of Public Health is reporting five additional presumptive positive cases of COVID-19, for a [total of eight cases in Iowa](#). Seven cases are in Johnson County and one in Pottawattamie County.

There are **no reported cases** of COVID-19 on Iowa State's campus, in Ames, or Story County. IDPH continues to recommend following simple daily precautions to prevent the spread of respiratory illness including washing hands frequently, covering coughs and sneezes, avoiding contact such as handshakes by giving a wave instead, and staying home when ill.

Spring Break travel

Spring Break is quickly approaching and we recognize that many students, faculty, and staff have personal travel plans. As the COVID-19 outbreak continues, please consider the following:

- Circumstances surrounding COVID-19 are evolving rapidly and could change while you are traveling, potentially complicating your return. Stay informed of the latest travel alerts from the [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC) and the [U.S. Department of State](#).
- Before leaving, notify a family member or friend to share destination and contact information.
- Take steps to prevent the spread of illness by practicing good hygiene, including washing your hands often, as well as trying to avoid crowded environments.
- If you believe you have been exposed to COVID-19, contact your healthcare provider to inquire about any follow up that might be needed.
 - ISU students can call Thielen Student Health Center at 515-294-5801.
 - ISU faculty and staff can either call their personal healthcare provider or Occupational Medicine at 515-294-2056 or via email om@ameslab.gov

University operations, contingency planning

While there are no reported cases of COVID-19 on the Iowa State campus, we are preparing for potential impacts on university operations. Iowa State's [Emergency Management Operations](#) has ramped up with a dedicated team working hard to plan for every contingency. This includes convening a number of working groups to consider specific issues such as academic and research continuity including online instruction, workforce protection, health services, and large events, as well as coordinating with the City of Ames, Story County, State of Iowa, and federal agencies.

University Human Resources has created an [FAQ](#) with information and guidance to prioritize employee health and workplace safety while minimizing potential disruptions. The university continues to base its decisions on guidance from the [CDC](#) and the [Iowa Department of Public Health](#), in consultation with the Board of Regents.

Stay informed

One of the most important things you can do during this rapidly changing situation is to stay informed through credible sources. Iowa State University's [safety webpage](#) includes university updates, information for students, employees, and parents and families, and links to public and campus resources.

We also encourage you to **check your ISU Alert settings** in [Access Plus](#) to ensure your contact information is up to date.

Thank you for patience, understanding and care for each other as we navigate this rapidly changing situation in the best interest of the Iowa State community.

Sincerely,

Wendy Wintersteen
President