

March 5, 2020

Dear Iowa State Community,

I am writing to share new information regarding the university's response to the spread of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The [Board of Regents](#) has directed Iowa State University and the other Regents institutions to suspend all university-sponsored international travel for 30 days, effective immediately. Please note this could be extended as conditions change. Students, faculty, and staff who are currently out of the country on university-sponsored travel will be recalled if the country they are in reaches a [CDC warning – level 3](#). At this point, those countries include China, South Korea, and Italy. Information about what is considered “university-sponsored international travel” is available in the [University Policy Library](#).

We understand this decision may be disappointing and disruptive, but our top priority is the safety and wellbeing of our students, faculty, and staff. The university is actively monitoring this rapidly changing situation and making decisions based on ongoing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, the U.S. Department of State, and the Iowa Department of Public Health in consultation with the Board of Regents.

We are committed to mitigating the impact on students' academic progress, and we are working on alternatives for academic credit for affected students.

We know many of you have personal travel plans for spring break. As conditions continue to evolve, we encourage you to check the latest alerts on the [Department of State](#) and [CDC](#) websites, reconsider travel to impacted regions and consider potential travel disruptions.

The university will continue to update the safety [webpage](#) with information and frequently asked questions about the COVID-19 outbreak. There are no reported cases of COVID-19 on the Iowa State campus or in the state of Iowa. While the risk of COVID-19 in Iowa remains low, we encourage the campus community to take appropriate steps to protect their health and safety and prevent the spread of illness:

- Cover your nose and mouth with tissues when you cough or sneeze and throw the tissue in the trash after use.
- Wash hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth to avoid spreading germs.
- Instead of a handshake, use an elbow bump to avoid spreading germs.

- Improve your immune system by getting enough rest, exercise regularly, and eat healthy.
- Stay home if you are sick and avoid close contact with sick people.

We know this situation is causing concern and anxiety. We must rely on factual information and [reject stigmas](#) associated with this outbreak. Please show care and support to our community, including students and colleagues who have traveled to, or who are from, impacted regions and may be feeling particularly vulnerable. If you are in need of additional support, please reach out to any of our [campus resources](#).

Sincerely,

Wendy Wintersteen  
President