

March 9, 2020

Dear Iowa State University Community:

The Iowa Department of Public Health announced yesterday **three presumptive positive cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in residents of Johnson County**. These are the first cases of COVID-19 in Iowa. The individuals, one middle-age (41–60 years) adult and two older adults (61–80), were all on an overseas cruise to Egypt. None required hospitalization and all are recovering in isolation at home.

Stay healthy, stay informed

According to the Iowa Department of Public Health, no additional or special precautions are recommended beyond the regular everyday actions to prevent the spread of all respiratory illnesses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Instead of a handshake, use an elbow bump to avoid spreading germs.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your mouth with your upper arm or tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

During this rapidly changing situation, please stay informed through reliable sources. Iowa State University's [safety webpage](#) includes university updates and links to public and campus resources.

International travel

At the direction of the Board of Regents, all [university-sponsored international travel is suspended](#) as of March 5 for at least 30 days. While this decision was made with the health and safety of the university community as the top priority, we understand it is causing disruptions not only for study abroad students, but also faculty, staff, and research programs. During the moratorium, faculty, staff, and students may not conduct university business (such as delivering a lecture at an institution or conference, or conducting research) while traveling internationally for personal purposes. Incidental business-related activities such as telephone calls and email are allowed during personal international travel. The university encourages faculty, staff, and students to reconsider personal international travel in light of both potential exposure to coronavirus and travel disruptions. We have convened a number of campus working groups to address and help mitigate issues related to the COVID-19 outbreak, including research continuity and academic continuity.

Commitment to health and safety

Iowa State University remains committed to prioritizing the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff in our response to the COVID-19 outbreak. University leaders have been closely and continuously monitoring the outbreak since January, and we deeply appreciate the university community's contributions to our response. Thank you for your understanding as we continue to work through this evolving situation.

Sincerely,

Wendy Wintersteen
President