Subject: Coronavirus and Travel

February 21, 2020

Dear Campus Community,

When considering travel plans during spring semester, keep in mind that restrictions may be in place due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. We want to make sure you are safe no matter your destination and that you have the information you need to get to there and home again.

As this is a rapidly evolving situation, there may be other travel limitations/restrictions imposed, so it is important that you stay apprised of how this may impact your plans. The CDC can be a valuable resource for information on travel advice and restrictions related to COVID-19.

Currently, the CDC is recommending that persons avoid nonessential travel to China.

- Most U.S.-based airlines have suspended service to China through March. As a result, there are few options for air travel to China from the U.S., and cancellations by airlines providing service to China are likely to continue.

- Chinese nationals traveling from China are being barred from entering the U.S. by presidential order. So, even if you find a way to get home after your travel, it is unlikely you will be allowed to return to the U.S. The length of the ban is unclear.

- U.S. citizens and permanent residents who have traveled to the coronavirus epicenter are being held in quarantine for 14 days by presidential order. As of today, no other countries besides China have been subject to the mandatory quarantine, but this could change in the future.

For those traveling to other countries during Spring Break or in the future, be prepared to provide documentation of recent travel history (for example, keep your passport and hard copies of your travel itinerary with you) when you re-enter the U.S. as you could be barred from re-entering or there may be limitations/restrictions on your movement such as required quarantine. There are currently other countries with apparent community spread, so stay apprised of the situation as other travel recommendations and restrictions may be forthcoming.

Please refer to the CDC webpage above for other general guidance about how to stay well and prevent the spread of illness while traveling:

- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean your hands often by washing them with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at 60%–95% alcohol. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly dirty.
  - It is especially important to clean hands after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.

Important reminder:

- If you have traveled and become ill, seek medical advice. Call ahead before going to a doctor’s office or emergency room. Tell them about your recent travel.
Clarifying questions regarding this communication can be directed to Student Health and Counseling at 715-425-3293. Information is also posted on the Student Health and Counseling webpage.

We wish you a safe and healthy spring!

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