

Feb. 28, 2020

To: MSU students, faculty and staff

From: Dr. Elizabeth Alexander

Senior Adviser to the Provost
COVID-19 Task Force Co-Chair

Chris Daniel

Director of International Health and Safety
COVID-19 Task Force Co-Chair

Dear Spartans:

As MSU responds to the outbreak of a new coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, we are extending various support services and resources to impacted Spartans. As of Feb. 28, 2020, there are no confirmed cases in Michigan.

As this virus spreads internationally, MSU is working with Spartans who may not be able to travel home this summer to provide necessary support and resources, including summer housing, counseling services, immigration assistance and employment opportunities. Also, we are assisting students whose Education Abroad programs will be or have been suspended to secure alternative programs or to refund applicable fees. And as an added precaution to keep campus members healthy, Residential and Hospitality Services continues to sanitize common area touch points every half hour as they do during influenza season.

Simultaneously, MSU's COVID-19 task force is addressing the many possible challenges this outbreak presents to our global community. The focus of the task force is to support international travelers and our community here at home by developing and implementing guidance provided by MSU experts in international risk management, public health and academic programming.

MSU's COVID-19 task force has three key workgroups responding and coordinating MSU's response to the outbreak:

Health: This workgroup is coordinating with public health officials and is developing policies and procedures related to preventing the potential spread of the virus on campus. The most important goal is to ensure the health, safety and well-being of our Spartans. This workgroup is drawing on guidance of the Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization and local public health agencies.

Travel and programming: This workgroup is responsible for determining MSU's university-sponsored travel decisions, including suspension and reinstatement of programming for faculty, staff and students. **The university will suspend travel to countries or regions with a level-three**

travel advisory issued by the CDC or a level-four travel advisory issued by the U.S. State Department due to the COVID-19 outbreak. MSU has currently suspended university-sponsored travel to China, Hong Kong, Singapore and South Korea through July 31, 2020. This group will continue monitoring the global situation as additional cases are reported in any location where Spartans intend to travel or where they are traveling. **It is critical that all university-sponsored international travel be registered in MSU's Global Travel Registry or Concur, as applicable.**

Student, faculty and staff support: This workgroup is responsible for addressing issues facing domestic and international students, faculty and staff resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak, including immigration status, employment, housing, counseling services and campus climate.

The COVID-19 outbreak is a rapidly evolving situation. MSU will continue to assess and adapt our response plans to protect the health of our campus community as events unfold.

For the latest information and resources, please visit msu.edu/coronavirus. We also invite you to [join us for a panel discussion](#) on coronavirus from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. March 13 at the International Center. The event is a partnership between the Canadian Studies Center and the College of Osteopathic Medicine's Global Health Studies program and is titled *Coronavirus Update: What do we know, what is the impact, where do we go from here?*

Thank you.