



**TO: UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY**

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON COVID-19 (FORMERLY THE 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS)**

**FROM: *HEALTH AND SAFETY***

**FEB. 27, 2020**

Dear Members of the University Community,

In light of changing developments, we wanted to update you on the University's response to COVID-19 (formerly the 2019 Novel Coronavirus). The University's Incident Management Team has been meeting regularly over the past few weeks to monitor developments related to the virus.

The risk level within the United States continues to be low for now, but new cases are beginning to be reported in countries worldwide. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), for example, recently elevated South Korea to a Level 3 (avoid non-essential travel) and elevated advisory levels for Italy and Japan to Level 2 (practice enhanced precautions).

**The University has decided to prohibit university-sponsored or related international travel to any countries designated by the CDC as a Level 3 – currently only China and South Korea. The University may prohibit sponsored or related travel to Level 2 or other countries depending on the circumstances.**

A number of universities are cancelling study abroad programs in other countries, especially Italy. The University is supporting any Scranton students whose semesters are being disrupted by these cancellations. We are also advising all students studying abroad to monitor notices from the U.S. government and the government of the country in which they are studying. Depending on circumstances related to the virus at that time, the University may require, as a precaution, that students returning to campus from study abroad programs wait a full 14 days after arriving in the United States and have a notice from a healthcare professional that they are free of flu-like symptoms.

With Spring Break quickly approaching, we strongly encourage members of the campus community who may be traveling internationally for personal reasons to refer

to the following resources for travel advice: [CDC Travel Advisory Website](#). [U.S. Department of State](#), [International SOS COVID-19 Information](#).

Please use caution when traveling to countries with [Level 2 travel advisories](#) and reconsider travel to countries with [Level 3 travel advisories](#). Restrictions can change without warning, and these changes could require a U.S.-based quarantine or even affect the timing of your reentry to the country.

Finally, the best advice for the campus community remains to follow CDC recommendations to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Get a flu vaccine.

The University has established a [COVID-19 information webpage](#) that includes previous campus communications and links to information about COVID-19. The Incident Management Team will continue to monitor the situation, and provide updates as warranted by changing circumstances.

Sincerely,  
Robert W. Davis Jr., Ed.D.  
Vice President for Student Life

Patricia Tetreault  
Vice President for Human Resources

Gerry Zabolski  
Vice President for Enrollment Management & External Affairs  
Incident Management Team Leader

SECOND EMAIL TO PARENTS:

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON COVID-19 (FORMERLY THE 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS)**

Dear Parents,

Earlier today, we sent the email below to all students. We are sharing this with you as well so that you can be aware of our ongoing steps to monitor and respond to the COVID-19 virus.

The University has established a [COVID-19 information webpage](#) that includes previous campus communications and links to information about COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Davis Jr., Ed.D.  
Vice President for Student Life

Patricia Tetreault  
Vice President for Human Resources

Gerry Zaboski  
Vice President for Enrollment Management & External Affairs  
Incident Management Team Leader