



Earlier this semester I sent an email encouraging students to take precautions to prevent the spread of the flu here on campus. In that same communication I shared that we've been closely monitoring the Coronavirus (now known as COVID-19). As we prepare for spring break (March 1-8), I'd ask that you take a moment to familiarize yourself with the information found below. It is our hope this information will help you to exercise good judgment during any upcoming travel as a preventative health precaution and further affirm our commitment to your well-being.

#### Facts & Information:

- While there have been cases confirmed in the United States, there have been no cases in Pennsylvania, in the local community, or at Grove City College.
- The Coronavirus was first detected in Wuhan, China and has now been detected in 37 locations internationally, including elsewhere in China, Mongolia, South Korea, Iran, Italy and Japan.
- There are currently no reported cases in the two international locations to which ICO trips are scheduled to travel.
- We are closely monitoring recent developments internationally and are in communication with our students who are studying independently abroad.

To prevent the spread of this and most other viruses, the CDC recommends the following:

- Wash your hands frequently for 20 seconds or more under warm water with soap.
- Use alcohol-based sanitizer if unable to wash hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, face and mouth with unwashed hands.
- If you cough, sneeze or have a runny nose, always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue.
- Throw used tissues into a trash can immediately and wash your hands thoroughly before touching anything or anyone.
- Do not share food, drink, utensils or dishes with others, and wash dishes, cups and silverware after use to prevent someone else from using contaminated items.
- If you have a persistent cough, you can wear a facemask to prevent spread to others, regardless of illness type.

#### Tips & Recommendations:

- Consider the necessity of your travels over spring break, especially if it involves crossing borders.
- Keep in mind that as we are in the midst of normal flu season, should you attempt to enter another country or to re-enter the U.S. with a fever, you could experience difficulties even if you are not sick with the coronavirus.
- If you travel to an area that has a risk of contagious disease and are concerned about symptoms upon your return to campus, please call the Zerbe Health and Wellness Center at 724-458-3850.

We will continue to monitor the situation and will implement protocols in accordance with guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention if needed. We are also working closely with the Pennsylvania Department of Health and will continue to communicate any updates and/or best practices for prevention so as to assure the wellbeing of our students, faculty and staff.

For the most up-to-date information about 2019-nCoV, visit the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/).

We anticipate communicating further and ask that you keep an eye out for any updates we might send.

Larry Hardesty,  
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