



CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

Feb. 27, 2020

To Our University Community:

As news about the coronavirus, or [COVID-19](#), continues to emerge from across the globe, we wanted to share with you some important information to help you stay safe and support others.

It's important to note that both Kansas and Missouri continue to have no confirmed coronavirus cases. Officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), however, have said that clusters of infection are likely to arise in the U.S.

The virus originated in China and is spreading across the globe. Travel to both China and South Korea is now restricted by the U.S. government, and **no new university-sponsored travel to China or South Korea will be approved until further notice.** In addition, clusters have arisen in Italy and Iran. UMKC is continuing to monitor CDC travel advisories.

UMKC is working closely with our partners in public health to track the spread of the virus and preparing to respond swiftly if cases arrive here. A UM System committee with representation from all four universities is meeting regularly to assess the situation and recommend action as necessary.

As many in our community plan to travel for spring break, we recommend that you monitor news sources and follow any regional restrictions that are put in place.

Whether traveling or staying at home, it makes good sense to follow health and hygiene recommendations that can help prevent the spread of colds, the flu or the new virus. The CDC recommends avoiding close contact with people who are sick; [proper handwashing](#); and covering your coughs and sneezes, preferably into your elbow or sleeve.

If you feel sick and think you may have been exposed to the coronavirus, please call your health care provider **first** and talk to them about next steps. (Going into a clinic or ER first could unnecessarily expose others.)

Although we encourage our entire community to be vigilant, it's just as important that we avoid discriminating against others because of their country of origin or race. As noted by the CDC, people — including those of Asian descent — who have not recently traveled to China or been in contact with a person who is a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 are not at greater risk of acquiring and spreading the virus than any others.

Our hearts are with all those affected by the virus, and I encourage you to join us in being careful, as

well as mindful of others, during this time.

Sincerely,



C. Mauli Agrawal, Ph.D.
Chancellor

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