

March 5, 2020

Dear Campus Community,

The University continues to actively monitor the worldwide spread of the respiratory illness novel coronavirus (COVID-19). **At this time, there are no known cases of COVID-19 at Xavier University or in the State of Ohio.** For the most up to date information, please visit [Xavier's COVID-19 website](#).

This is an evolving situation, with new cases being reported on a daily basis. The immediate risk at Xavier remains low but the Campus Emergency Response Team continues to work closely with our TriHealth partners and local, state and national health agencies to plan and coordinate our response. Our highest priority will remain the safety of our students, faculty, and staff as we address this rapidly changing situation.

International Travel

On March 1, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a statement recommending that institutions of higher education “**consider** postponing or canceling student foreign exchange programs” and “**consider** asking current program participants to return to their home country.” After a careful review of the international locations where Xavier students are studying, we are **not** asking students to return to the U.S. We have responded in the following ways:

- We have reviewed our travel policy and have restricted travel to China, Italy, Iran, and South Korea in conjunction with the Department of State (DOS) and CDC level 3 or 4 travel advisories due to COVID-19.
- After careful consideration and out of an abundance of caution, we made the difficult decision to cancel the spring break program to London and Paris. All other scheduled travel is continuing as planned.
- No determinations have been made regarding summer travel at this time for students, faculty, or staff. We will continue to monitor the situation and will update the community as appropriate.

The Center for International Education continues to be in regular contact with students abroad and our partner universities/programs around the world.

Domestic Travel

All Alternative Break trips and University-sponsored domestic travel are being individually evaluated for potential risk factors. Direct communication with the participants is occurring. As you prepare for and engage in your spring break travel with the University, please know we will continue to monitor the situation. Should circumstances change in the cities to which you are traveling, we will communicate with you promptly.

[Xavier's COVID-19 website](#) will be updated regularly and we encourage monitoring of the [CDC's website](#) for the most up to date information. Please reach out to your trip leaders, Health Services or the Division of Student Affairs should you have questions or concerns about your travel plans.

Xavier University Campus Operations

The Campus Emergency Response Team is currently working with leadership from the colleges and operational departments to review and refine academic and operational continuity plans should the University be closed for an extended period of time.

General health preventative steps remain very important. Here are ways to stay healthy:

- Avoid close contact with anyone who is sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the rest room, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing
- Regularly use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Avoid traveling to, or practice enhanced precautions when traveling to, high risk areas identified by the CDC

In this time of growing uncertainty, it is important for our community to come together and support each other. Please be vigilant about your own personal health and do your part in helping to keep our campus safe.

Thank you,

Jeff Coleman
Vice President - Risk Management