

University Update on Coronavirus (COVID-19)



Members of the Boston University Community,

As the number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases has increased in several countries outside of China, many are wondering whether they should travel outside of the United States during next week's spring break. Ultimately, your personal travel decisions are up to you. We hope this message contains information that may assist you in your planning.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s [travel health notices](#) are an important source of accurate information for planning your travel. We encourage you to monitor these official government travel advisories. In recent weeks, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the [U.S. Department of State](#) have elevated travel advisory levels for several countries, including **China, Iran, Italy, Japan, and South Korea.**

On February 19, 2020, Provost Morrison [discouraged university-sponsored travel to China](#). If you are a part of any Boston University sponsored travel (such as a class or service trip) to China during this period it should be assessed and reviewed by the University's Global Travel Risk Assessment Committee (GTRAC). If you have questions, write to globalhss@bu.edu.

Students currently studying abroad have been advised to consider staying in their assigned location rather than visiting other countries during spring break. If you are currently in Europe or planning to travel to Europe over spring break, you may find the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control's COVID-19 website](#) and the [World Health Organization](#) websites important as planning aids.

Boston University has been preparing for a possible outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in Boston. We have participated in frequent discussions and consultations with the Boston Public Health Commission and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. In the event that COVID-19 cases begin to occur in our community, we will continue to work closely with our public health experts to ensure we take care of any individuals who are ill while minimizing the risk of transmission to others.

We continue to encourage special attention to hand-washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and avoiding contact with anyone who appears sick. Please educate yourselves with information regarding COVID-19 and how it is affecting our community through a variety of sources

including [BU Today](#), university email communications, and [a new BU website](#) dedicated to providing updated information across a variety of topics related to COVID-19.

The CDC has broadened the definition for those who should be tested for COVID-19 to include anyone with fever, cough, or respiratory symptoms and recent travel to areas of sustained COVID-19 transmission. Students, faculty, or staff who are **returning** from areas of sustained COVID-19 transmission which currently include **China, Iran, Italy, Japan, and South Korea** should immediately notify (via secure message or call) on-campus healthcare providers for further instruction.

For any student: Go to bu.edu/shs/coronavirus or call Student Health Services at 617-353-3575

For any employee: Call Boston University Occupational Health at 617-353-6630

Kenn Elmore, Dean of Students

Judy Platt, Director of Student Health Services

Ann Zaia, Director of Occupational Health Services
