



March 6, 2020

Dear Heidelberg University Community:

With Spring Break approaching, many of you are making travel plans, so we want to take this opportunity to provide an update on information shared by both local and federal agencies with regard to cases of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) and decisions made here at Heidelberg with regard to planned travel.

As is true throughout the academic year, we place the health of our students, staff, and faculty as a top priority. With a number of trips scheduled for students and faculty, we are making decisions concerning scheduled travel both nationally and internationally, based on careful review of the advice and directives coming from the CDC concerning the COVID-19 (coronavirus), the Ohio Department of Health, and the federal government. Currently, health officials advise that there is no cause for concern when traveling domestically; however, we are advising all students, faculty, and staff to follow the advice from the CDC and the U.S. Department of State (DOS). The risk of getting COVID-19 is currently low in the United States, and at this point the disease is isolated to a few areas. With the situation always changing, it is important for us to continue to monitor the recommendations. With regard to international travel, programs will be cancelled should the destination country be under a CDC Warning Level 2 or above. This list currently includes China, Hong Kong, Iran, Italy, Japan, and South Korea.

Keep in mind, we are all far more likely to contract the seasonal flu than COVID-19, and it's not too late to get your flu vaccine. To help prevent the spread of any virus, we do ask all members of the community to follow preventive measures including:

- Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based (at least 60%) hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with your unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth with a tissue when you cough and sneeze.

You should know the signs of COVID-19, which include fever, cough and shortness of breath. These are similar symptoms to the seasonal flu. You should seek medical attention if you develop these symptoms and could have been in contact with COVID-19 or have travelled where there is ongoing spread of the virus. Be sure to call ahead before going to a doctor's office or our health center on campus.

We welcome any questions. Should you wish to discuss this, please contact someone from the list below.

Sincerely,

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President

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