

Dear Friends:

Your leadership team has been monitoring the Coronavirus situation carefully. In fact, a planned trip by several of us to visit a school in China has been cancelled, and we have been discussing possible responses and actions in the event that a member or members of our community are diagnosed as having the virus or have been known to have been exposed. There is understandable concern about the spread of this virus in the U.S., but thus far such exposures have been relatively minor, and God willing, this will continue to be the case.

As has been widely reported, the virus was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, and has since spread. That this is happening coincidentally with a particularly nasty flu season is very likely exacerbating concerns and possibly leading to false conclusions. There has been widespread misinformation on social media, and we encourage all of our campus community to be diligent, but calm.

We are monitoring several health-related organizations and we encourage you to do the same with the links provided below:

- **World Health Organization (WHO):** [www.who.int/ith/en](http://www.who.int/ith/en)
- **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):** [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)
- **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:** <https://www.hhs.gov/>
- **Arizona Department of Health Services:** <https://www.azdhs.gov>
- **Maricopa County Public Health Department:** <https://www.maricopa.gov/5302/Public-Health>
- **Kansas Department of Health & Environment:** <http://www.kdheks.gov>
- **Franklin County Health Department:** <http://www.franklincoks.org/index.aspx?NID=339>

The symptoms of this virus include fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing. Since the virus is very new, health authorities continue to carefully monitor its spread.

### **Recommendations/Prevention:**

From the CDC: *There are no specific treatments for illnesses caused by human coronaviruses. Most people with common human coronavirus illness will recover on their own. However, you can do some things to relieve your symptoms:*

- take pain and fever medications (Caution: do not give Aspirin to children)
- use a room humidifier or take a hot shower to help ease a sore throat and cough

If you are mildly sick, you should:

- drink plenty of liquids
- stay home and rest

If you are concerned about your symptoms, you should see your healthcare provider.

### **Additionally:**

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds (if soap and water unavailable, use an alcohol-based sanitizer);
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

**You can protect others by:**

- Staying home while sick;
- Avoiding close contact with others if you are ill;
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissue or your sleeve when coughing or sneezing; and
- Washing your hands with soap and water for at least 30 seconds.

The safety and security of our multiple communities is paramount at OU. I want you to know that in addition to basic preventive measures such as these, I have asked key leadership to prepare plans in the event that this becomes a much bigger problem than it currently is for the security and health of our students, faculty, and employees as well as our vendors and friends.

We are considering our options for how to continue educating our students via Blackboard and online in the unlikely event that we might have to cancel face to face classes, meetings, and the like. We are also working through communications strategies and processes that would need to be employed with all members of our communities as well as parents.

We are in touch with local health organizations and jurisdictions in all of our markets to ensure we have good and effective connections and information flows with them. And we have reviewed our back-up IT and insurance coverages to protect the institution from any potential long-term operational disruptions.

Thank you for your attention to this information. I certainly hope it is helpful and will provide some measure of comfort. We all know the old saying about “an ounce of prevention being better than a pound of cure.” In the meantime, there is never a wrong time to maintain the best health habits. And prayer for those affected already and for people everywhere around the world is most appropriate.

God bless each of you. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Kevin C. Eichner  
Chancellor

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