



TO: Ottawa University Kansas Students, Faculty, Staff & Friends
FROM: President Reggie Wenyika
RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update
DATE: 3/13/2020

Ottawa University is committed to the safety and well-being of our students, faculty and staff. As such, for the past two months, the University has been actively monitoring the developments related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and closely following the guidance of the CDC and other agencies. We have also been working closely with the Franklin County Health Department to receive the most up-to-date information and direction in the implementation of needed protocols on our campus.

At this time, we have no confirmed cases of coronavirus on the OU campus and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) considers Ottawa and its immediate surrounding area to be at minimal risk for COVID-19. However, given the rapidly evolving and unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 situation, we continue to focus on prevention and have taken extensive prevention steps on campus to help mitigate the COVID-19 risk. To ensure success, we must all do our part by being vigilant and diligent in exercising caution and following CDC recommended guidelines, such as social distancing and increased sanitation to minimize the potential risk to our university community.

To this end we are taking the following proactive steps: We will be limiting activities where large groups of students and/or guests are physically assembled. This includes conferences, convocations and other events of this type. We will continue to monitor the environment, and will make a decision regarding university commencements in the next two to three weeks.

Spring Break

Spring break at Ottawa University will occur as previously scheduled from March 14-22, and the campus remains open. We have encouraged all students who wish to remain in residential housing over Ottawa University's spring break to do so at no additional charge to the students. While food service operations at Hetrick Bistro will not be available during this time, Student Affairs staff will assist in facilitating access to groceries and/or meals.

Students who do leave for spring break will be required to document their travel and to indicate whether they have been in areas designated by the CDC as high risk for COVID-19. They may also be subject to interview

by local health authorities, and pending the results of such interviews, may be asked to submit to health-related examinations, including the possibility of official COVID-19 testing.

Domestic & International Travel

All upcoming university-sponsored international travel by OU students, faculty and staff for spring and summer 2020, including but not limited to, faculty-led and third-party programs is suspended until further notice. All domestic travel by staff is to be limited to that necessary to fulfill individual responsibilities for admissions, athletic recruiting, academic oversight and other leadership roles. The university continues to monitor the CDC and federal government alerts regarding affected areas of the country and may place additional restrictions on domestic travel if necessary.

Academics

At this time, the university remains open and classes are scheduled to resume as planned in their current format after spring break. Should our ability to provide instruction through face-to-face modalities be disrupted, or should we deem it advisable to change, Ottawa University will move to deliver its curriculum to students remotely without altering the current course schedule. Because Ottawa University has robust technical resources, we are well positioned to avoid such a disruption in the delivery of curriculum and to continue to provide for high quality student learning. Our faculty will be prepared to deliver course content utilizing various distance methods in addition to online as is appropriate for each affected course.

Athletics

Effective immediately, the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC) has suspended indefinitely all athletic-related practice, travel, and competitions for the athletics programs for its member institutions. The KCAC will continue to work closely with the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) in determining when, and if, NAIA Spring 2020 Championships will be played. Student athletes will be able to participate in physical conditioning activities in line with relevant conference guidelines.

Faculty & Staff

All faculty and staff are continuing to carry out their responsibilities as assigned, including admissions, athletic recruiting, fundraising, on-ground or online teaching (where the latter is the predominant modality), and other such duties. Travel may be required depending upon specific job obligations, but will be limited whenever possible to reduce the exposure associated with air travel and such. As mentioned earlier, while no travel restrictions exist at this time within the continental United States, special attention will be paid to those areas of the country designated as high risk.

Any faculty or staff member with underlying health conditions may petition for special accommodations in the event they have a concern about their personal health being compromised. Such petitions should be made to their direct supervisor and to Human Resources and every effort will be made to provide such accommodations. The COVID-19 situation is rapidly evolving and new communications will be provided as needed for our Ottawa University community. Please continue to monitor your email regularly for additional updates. We understand that these actions will undoubtedly cause inconvenience and disruption. However, these measures are necessary to ensure the continuing good health and safety of our community. I am thankful for your corporation, support and prayers.