

An Important Update About the Coronavirus

As the global situation with the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and the illness caused by the virus (COVID-19) continues, we want to update you on CSUSM's response and preparedness efforts.

As you may have seen, coronavirus has spread to new regions throughout the world, including the United States. We want to reassure you that the risk of exposure in the United States is currently considered very low, and we are carefully monitoring the situation for changes. Because the CDC considers it likely that more cases will emerge in the U.S., and that community spread is likely, we are also taking the appropriate steps to plan and prepare for anything that may disrupt usual campus operations, and to keep our campus and community healthy.

CSUSM has launched a new [Coronavirus Information Website](#) which includes helpful information and links.

Spring Break Travel Considerations

As spring break approaches, it's important to keep in mind best practices for staying well and considering your risk of exposure to the virus through travel activity. We understand that many students, faculty and staff are planning to take personal or business-related trips in the near future and, no matter where you travel, we'd like to suggest that you always consult the website of the country you are visiting to see what policies or travel warnings are in place. Medical experts advise that the risk is low if you are traveling to a country where there are few or no cases of COVID-19. However, it is emphasized that you should evaluate your trip each day and look for any updates from the local authorities and from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Even if you plan to travel somewhere that is not currently impacted, please remember that this situation is rapidly evolving, and travel restrictions may change quickly. Travel to any global destination could be directly or indirectly disrupted.

Prevention Practices

Closer to home, we ask that everyone continue to do their part in preserving a healthy community at CSUSM and prevent spreading illnesses, including the influenza which continues to be a bigger threat locally. Remember these simple tips to help stay well:

- Become familiar with and recognize symptoms of the illness.

- Seek care immediately if you have recently traveled within the affected region and are experiencing these symptoms.
- Always practice good hygiene – wash hands, cover mouth while coughing and sneezing (into the crook of your elbow rather than your hands is best), and avoid sharing food, cups or utensils.
- Get an annual flu shot

If you have any health questions or concerns, please contact your health care provider (faculty/staff) or Student Health & Counseling Services (students) at 760-750-4915 for further guidance.

Maintaining Our Commitment to Being a Welcoming and Inclusive Campus

The CDC has also released an important resource entitled, [“Share Facts, Not Fear.”](#) During this epidemic, it’s vital that we live our values of diversity and inclusive excellence. We value all members of our community and stand united against bias and stereotyping.

If you believe you have been treated unfairly, discriminated against or harassed based on a protected status, such as disability, medical condition, race or national origin, please contact the campus Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation Administrator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator Gail Mendez or the Associate Vice President & Title IX Coordinator Dr. Bridget Blanshan at ex. 6020.

If you or someone you know might need further support, the following resources are available to you:

- Students can contact [Student Health and Counseling Services](#) for a range of services. The [Cougar Care Network](#) can also provide information about on- and off-campus resources.
- For faculty and staff, the [Employee Assistance Program](#) is available at 1-800-367-7474.
- The [Office of University Ombuds](#) also offers confidential and neutral assistance for all students, faculty and staff.

Finally, as this is an evolving situation, we will continue to update you as needed.

If you have any questions regarding the campus response to this situation, you are welcome to contact Emergency Manager Robert Williams at 760-750-4503 or Campus Risk Manager & Director of Integrated Risk Management Erin Fullerton at 760-750-4516.