



Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Faculty and Staff,

An update concerning the Coronavirus COVID-19 has just been released by LSU to the LSU A&M campus and to the media. Per LSU's request, we have made a few minor changes to the update to make it specific to the LSUS community. If you have any questions, please email me and I will relay it to the appropriate Task Force.

- There are no confirmed cases of coronavirus at LSUS, or within the LSU system. We continue to follow the advice of public health officials to protect the health and well-being of our community. We encourage you to be cautious of rumors and speculation on social media or in other sources where factual information is not provided.
- If anyone at LSUS has concerns about being exposed to the virus, they should contact their health provider immediately. We pledge to immediately inform the campus if there are any confirmed cases of coronavirus at LSUS.
- We are aware that other universities around the country are closing and/or moving to online classes. The campuses within the LSU system are also considering these options, and we are currently working with academic leadership to prepare for the possibility of moving to an online format. At this time, with no confirmed cases in the LSU system, we are not yet opting to close or move entirely to online classes. Other universities have made those decisions based on what's happening in their cities and on their campuses. The LSU system will do the same, and at that time an assessment would be made for each of the individual campuses within the system. The goal is to complete the spring semester, whether in person or online, so that all students get full credit for the semester and can matriculate or graduate without delay.
- Spring break is coming. We encourage the campus community not to travel during spring break. We realize many students had plans for spring break, and some have already spent money on those plans. But we ask you to consider where you would be traveling to, and what the situation would be like when you get there. Would the travel put you in close contact with others? Would it expose you to people from places where the virus is more prevalent than it is in Louisiana? Please use good judgment.

- International travel of any kind is not recommended, and university-related travel must go through the university's High-Risk Travel process (instructions can be found at <https://www.lsu.edu/coronavirus/travel.php>). Travel to countries with a Level 3 or 4 designation will be denied, and travel to countries with a Level 1 or 2 designation will be seriously examined before a decision is made. While the university cannot control your personal travel, please know that international travel of any kind is not advisable, and that you may be required to self-quarantine when you return from that travel, depending on what country you have visited.
  
- Non-essential travel within the United States is strongly discouraged at this time. For faculty and staff, business travel of any kind within the United States will have to be reviewed and approved by the Chancellor and Provost, even if it has already been approved. In general, it is best to avoid any travel that is not absolutely essential, whether that travel is business-related or personal.
  
- We have received questions about upcoming events for the spring, from awards ceremonies to commencement to athletic events. Currently, because there are no cases of the virus at LSUS or within the LSU system, most events are still being held as planned. However, we are closely monitoring this situation, which is constantly changing, and are looking at all upcoming large-scale events and will communicate any cancellations to you as soon as we know them.
  
- We have also received questions about summer classes, intersession, and summer camps. Since those events are still several months away, we will continue to follow developments and make decisions on those things as we get closer to them.

For the latest information on the virus, on travel advisories, and for any updates for the LSU community, please visit [www.lsu.edu/coronavirus](http://www.lsu.edu/coronavirus) and follow LSU's official social media channels.

We know this situation requires patience, as not all of these questions can be answered at this time. But we assure you that we are taking this situation very seriously, and your safety and well-being is our utmost concern. We are working with state and federal agencies to make these decisions, and we plan to make decisions based on factual information. We pledge to keep you informed of all decisions, and of any confirmed cases of the virus within the LSU system. We will continue to monitor the situation and adjust our plans as the need arises. Please know that all options are on the table and there is no scenario that we haven't considered. We pledge to be transparent and keep you updated, as we all must work together to ensure the safety of our overall community.