

01/29/20

Subject: Information regarding Coronavirus

Good morning,

The health and safety of all members of our campus community is the highest priority, and we want to assure the BW community that the University is tracking the evolving developments in the outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus centered in Wuhan, China.

Currently, there are NO suspected cases of the coronavirus on BW's campus.

We continue to watch worldwide developments, monitor updates daily from the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and follow all recommendations from local and state public health agencies, the American College Health Association (ACHA) and our partners at Southwest General Hospital.

BW Study Abroad is also vigilant about student and faculty safety and is consulting with a number of sources to make determinations about all current and future travel. Sources of guidance include the U.S. Department of State, Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), the CDC, the United Nations' World Health Organization (WHO), in-country partner study abroad organizations and GeoBlue International Health Insurance, which provides BW with daily security briefs for countries around the world. BW has no students currently studying abroad in China. Based on U.S. State Department and CDC guidance, we are evaluating alternatives and options for a group that was scheduled to study in the region in May 2020.

It's worth noting that we are in the midst of cold and flu season and the presence of respiratory symptoms, including fever, cough and shortness of breath, does not mean the source of illness is coronavirus. As is the case during every cold and flu season, we are all encouraged to follow the CDC's best practices for preventing the transmission of respiratory illnesses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Specific to coronavirus, guidance from the CDC suggests those with flu-like symptoms who have traveled from China within the last 14 days (or been in contact with someone believed to have contracted this strain) should seek medical attention and contact the provider before going.

For more information about novel coronavirus, the [CDC website](#) and the [Ohio Department of Health \(ODH\)](#) are trusted sources of information.

You may also reach out to [BW Health Services](#) at (440) 826-2178.

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