



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Marywood University

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CDC Statement

Scranton, PA (February 26, 2020) – The CDC has issued the following updated statement:

Outbreaks of novel virus infections among people are always of public health concern. The risk from these outbreaks depends on characteristics of the virus, including how well it spreads between people, the severity of resulting illness, and the medical or other measures available to control the impact of the virus (for example, vaccine or treatment medications). The fact that this disease has caused illness, including illness resulting in death, and sustained person-to-person spread is concerning.

The potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 is high, both globally and to the United States.

But individual risk is dependent on exposure.

- For the general American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus at this time, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low.
- Under current circumstances, certain people will have an increased risk of infection, for example healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19 and other close contacts of persons with COVID-19. CDC has developed [guidance to help in the risk assessment and management](#) of people with potential exposures to COVID-19.

However, it's important to note that current global circumstances suggest it is likely that this virus will cause a [pandemic](#). In that case, the risk assessment would be different.

The U.S. government has taken unprecedented steps with respect to **travel** in response to the growing public health threat posed by this new coronavirus:

- Effective February 2, at 5pm, the U.S. government suspended entry of foreign nationals who have been in China within the past 14 days.
- U.S. citizens, residents, and their immediate family members who have been in Hubei province and other parts of mainland China are allowed to enter the United States, but they are subject to health monitoring and possible quarantine for up to 14 days.
- CDC has issued the following travel guidance related to COVID-19:
 - [China – Level 3, Avoid Nonessential Travel](#) – updated February 22;
 - [South Korea – Level 3, Avoid Nonessential Travel](#) – updated February 24;
 - [Japan – Level 2, Practice Enhanced Precautions](#) – updated February 22;
 - [Iran – Level 2, Practice Enhanced Precautions](#) – issued February 23;
 - [Italy – Level 2, Practice Enhanced Precautions](#) – issued February 23;
 - [Hong Kong – Level 1, Practice Usual Precautions](#) – issued February 19.
- CDC also recommends that [all travelers reconsider cruise ship voyages into or within Asia](#) at this time.

As promised, Student Health Services will continue to update the Marywood community with information as it becomes available to us. Please take the time to view this Wellness Wednesday Video for more about what you need to know: <https://www.collegehealthtv.com/wellness-wednesday-video>