

Statement to the St. Louis College of Pharmacy Community

DATE: Tuesday, March 3, 2020
TO: All Students, All Faculty, All Staff
FROM: John A. Pieper, Pharm.D., FCCP, FAPhA, President of the College
RE: Important Announcement Regarding Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)
and Travel Impacts

Students, Faculty and Staff:

We are closely monitoring the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), first identified in December in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. I have convened the College's leadership and public safety teams to discuss the possible impact on our community. We will continue to meet regularly, monitor updates and distribute information to our campus community as it becomes available.

As you are aware from media reports, cases have now been identified in the United States and worldwide, and the U.S. Department of State, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and World Health Organization (WHO) are taking steps to contain the spread of illness.

To learn more about COVID-19, I encourage you to reference the resources provided by these agencies:

- [U.S. Department of State: Current Outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [World Health Organization: Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Outbreak](#)
- [American Pharmacists Association: Pharmacists' Guide to Coronavirus](#)

These agencies are sources of reliable, fact-based information, and they provide a wealth of information including travel advice.

Impact on College-Sponsored Travel

Based on the guidelines that have been issued by these agencies, I have instructed the College's leadership team to restrict College-sponsored travel to the following countries:

- China
- Iran
- Italy
- Japan
- South Korea

Any student scheduled to travel to one of these countries for curricular or co-curricular activities should contact their dean to discuss alternative arrangements. Faculty and staff members who were planning to travel to one of these countries should speak with their President's Staff representative.

This travel restriction will be effective immediately and remain in place until further notice. The College's leadership team will continue to monitor the U.S. State Department, CDC and WHO response to the outbreak and communicate changes to these travel restrictions if needed.

Impact on Personal Travel

We also recognize that members of our community may have plans for personal travel to these or other affected countries. I strongly encourage each of you to become familiar with [current travel restrictions and advisories](#).

Decisions about personal travel are up to each of you to make. However, public health situations can change rapidly, and your return travel may be significantly impacted. Delays in return travel could negatively impact your academic progress and/or work.

If your personal travel results in a delayed return or mandated quarantine, you will still be subject to all relevant policies regarding attendance for work or class, and travel delays may not be considered excused absences for students.

Ways You Can Help

When any public health concern arises, the best way we can equip ourselves is to learn about the outbreak and stay apprised of updates. Public health issues are often accompanied by fear, misinformation and non-fact-based biases against particular patient populations – and we are certainly seeing those problems throughout media reports.

As a member of the College community, you are educated and equipped to understand the facts and navigate this issue as empathetic, informed experts, and I thank you, in advance, for serving as role models and leaders in your personal and professional communities.

To reduce your personal risk and the spread of disease in our community, the same best practices we recommend during the flu season are simple, but effective.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose. If soap and water are not readily available, you can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Always wash your hands with soap and water if they are visibly dirty.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when coughing or sneezing. Do not use your hands to cover your mouth and nose and do not reuse tissues.
- Remain at home if you are ill.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using cleaning spray or wipes.

Students, faculty and staff should familiarize themselves with [the College's Communicable Disease Outbreak Control Policy](#), take proper precautions and report to the appropriate offices when needed to prevent further spread of disease.

For more information about COVID-19 and the public health response underway, reference the U.S. State Department, CDC and WHO resources provided above.

Questions about the College's response may be directed to Carlin Harp, emergency management coordinator, at carlin.harp@stlcp.edu or 314.446.8133.