

Statement to the St. Louis College of Pharmacy Community

DATE: Wednesday, March 11, 2020
TO: All Students, All Faculty, All Staff
FROM: John A. Pieper, Pharm.D., FCCP, FAPhA, President of the College
RE: COVID-19 Updates

Students, Faculty and Staff:

We are continuing to monitor updates regarding the novel coronavirus and COVID-19 infections, both at home and abroad.

As I shared with you in my communication on Tuesday, March 3, I have convened the College's leadership team, and we are continuing to meet regularly and plan the College's response. The health and safety of our campus community is my top priority, and I will be convening College leadership on a weekly basis or more frequently if necessary, and I will share regular updates with you as the situation evolves.

In the last week, we have seen the number of infections worldwide and in the United States grow, and the first positive case has been identified in the State of Missouri. In light of these developments, **the College is putting new measures in place to protect our campus community**. These new and updated policies are outlined below in detail, and will also [be listed online at stlcop.edu/covid19](https://stlcop.edu/covid19). This website will provide a central location for information related to our response that is factual and up to date.

While there have been no cases identified in our campus community, and we do not believe there is an imminent risk to campus, we are being proactive and ensuring that our response is closely aligned with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As testing for the coronavirus becomes more available across the country, we expect there to be an increase in diagnosed cases. As a community of future and current health care providers and professionals, we also know that this increase in cases reported will likely cause widespread fear and misinformation.

I thank you for the leadership you have and continue to demonstrate in your personal and professional communities. I encourage you to continue to rely on reputable sources of information and do what you can to combat rumor and misinformation. As a reminder, the following agencies and organization are excellent sources of information:

- [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](#)

At this time, the College will implement the following response measures, **effective immediately**. Please read this information carefully. If you have questions regarding our response, please contact Carlin Harp, emergency management coordinator, at carlin.harp@stlcop.edu or 314.446.8133.

Restrictions on College-Sponsored International Travel

As outlined in my communication on Tuesday, March 3, based on the guidelines that have been issued by the CDC, U.S. Department of State and World Health Organization (WHO), I have instructed the

College's leadership team to restrict College-sponsored travel to countries listed under CDC Travel Notice Level 2 or Level 3. These countries are:

- 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.

Additionally, we are immediately implementing a pause on **all international College-sponsored travel** for four weeks. The College's leadership team will revisit this decision by Wednesday, April 8, or earlier if necessary and communicate changes to the campus community.

Restrictions on College-Sponsored Domestic Travel

At this time, we have not implemented restrictions on College-sponsored travel within the United States. However, I encourage you to exercise a high level of caution, taking into account the latest recommendations and your own medical history, age and whether you have personal factors that would increase your risk of illness from COVID-19. If you have concerns about upcoming College-sponsored domestic travel, contact Carlin Harp, at carlin.harp@stlcop.edu or 314.446.8133. Students should also consult with their dean, and faculty and staff should consult with their supervisor.

Personal Travel

You may also have upcoming plans for personal travel, especial with Spring Break approaching. I strongly advise you to become familiar with current travel restrictions and advisories using the following resources:

- [CDC Travel Information and Risk Assessments](#)
- [CDC Recommendations for Cruise Ship Travel](#)
- [CDC FAQs for Travelers](#)

Public health situations can change rapidly, and your return travel may be significantly impacted by a sudden change in travel advisories associated with your destination. Delays in return travel could negatively impact your academic progress and/or work.

Reporting Travel

Additionally, until further notice, all students, faculty, and staff traveling outside the St. Louis metro area for College or personal business, are asked to report their travel to the College. As new travel advisories are issued, the College's emergency management team may contact you with additional screening instructions and information. Travel reports may be [submitted using an online form available at stlcop.edu/covid19](https://stlcop.edu/covid19).

Students, faculty, and staff who have known exposure to COVID-19 should not come to campus and should immediately contact Carlin Harp at carlin.harp@stlcop.edu or 314.446.8133.

Returning to Campus

If you travel, against the recommendations of the CDC and the College, to areas rated as CDC Travel Notice Level 2 or 3, you will not be permitted to return to campus until cleared to do so by our emergency

management team after a 14-day quarantine period off campus. You will still be subject to all relevant policies regarding attendance for work or class, and your travel delays will not be considered excused absences.

If your travel to other areas results in a delayed return to campus, requests for excused absences will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, but excused absences will not be guaranteed.

Visitors to Campus

To protect our campus community, the College will not allow visitors to campus for general visits, meetings or to attend College events if they:

- Have traveled to a location with an elevated risk of COVID-19 exposure, according to [current CDC recommendations](#), in the previous 14 days.
- Have had direct contact with a person who has been diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19 during the previous 14 days.

College departments, units and organizations hosting visitors are required to **communicate these restrictions to guests prior to their visit.**

On-Campus Events

At this time, we plan to proceed with campus events as scheduled. We will continue to monitor developments and share information with the campus community as needed.

Classes, On-Campus Instruction and Business Operations

There is no current plan for a disruption to on-campus instruction at the College.

As part of our ongoing contingency planning, faculty are preparing plans for delivering courses online, if necessary. I am working closely with the deans to review contingency plans for the remainder of the spring semester in the event that on-campus instruction must be suspended.

If you are sick or have reason to believe you have been exposed to COVID-19, you must not attend class or report for work.

- Students should contact their dean's office to make arrangements for an excused absence and determination for making up missed course sessions.
- Faculty and staff should contact their supervisor and follow existing absence policies.

If you believe you need to be tested for COVID-19, contact your primary care doctor or health care provider for instructions. Unless instructed by your physician, current recommendations are to avoid going to the doctor's office or emergency room unless you are experiencing symptoms that require immediate treatment.

In the days and weeks to come, the College's leadership team and I will share more information and updates on our response.

I encourage you to [regularly check stlcop.edu/covid19](https://stlcop.edu/covid19) for detailed information and updates, and contact Carlin Harp, emergency management coordinator, at carlin.harp@stlcop.edu or 314.446.8133 if you have questions or concerns.