Email Subject: Study Abroad Update: 2019 Novel Coronavirus

Dear UNH Education Abroad Students,

We are writing share information about the outbreak of the 2019 Novel (New) Coronavirus. The UNH Global Education Center, Health & Wellness and emergency management personnel are fully aware and informed regarding the current coronavirus infection and its international health effects. We are following all medical and public health guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization and International SOS, UNH’s international travel assistance provider.

At this time, the only U.S. travel restriction due to the novel coronavirus is to China. The U.S. Department of State issued a Travel Advisory on February 2, 2020 that rated China – Level 4: Do Not Travel. As per the UNH Policy on International Travel Risk, UNH policy prohibits student travel and activities in countries and areas that the U.S. Department of State rates as Level 3: Reconsider Travel or Level 4: Do Not Travel.

The primary risk of infection to travelers is in areas with active outbreaks; being in contact with sick people; or, attend places where there are live animals. The documented human-to-human transmission is from water droplets (coughing/sneezing) and animals. There are, however, a limited number of cases outside of China in popular student travel destinations, including but not limited to: Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, and UK.

**Travel and prevention advice:**
- Do not travel if you are sick.
  - Some locations have implemented screening, and travelers may face testing and quarantine if your symptoms cause concern.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Carry hand sanitizer for use when soap and water are not readily available.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Keep some distance from people who are obviously sick and avoid direct contact with them.
- Seek medical attention from a trusted local doctor if you develop symptoms, especially fever or shortness of breath, and ensure you provide your travel history.
  - Ask your onsite program contact or International SOS for a referral.

We encourage you to monitor the latest news about your travel destinations from trusted health sources. These include: International SOS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and UNH Health & Wellness. There is unconfirmed information and misinformation on social media and even some traditional news sources.

You are welcome to contact International SOS with any medical or health related questions, including about the novel coronavirus, even before departure. They have experts available 24/7 and you can reach them by calling 1-800-523-6586 or 1-215-942-8478 or texting through the Assistance App. You will need to provide UNH’s membership number: 11BCAS000009.

While the safety of our community is our highest priority, students and their loved ones still must make individual assessments of their own risk tolerance. UNH makes decisions about program operations and suspensions based on our best analysis from a variety of expert resources. Students and families,
however, may feel differently. Students should try to imagine how you would feel if you were abroad and there was an outbreak in your host institution or city. It is equally important for students to discuss plans with loved ones, taking their thoughts and feelings seriously into consideration.

Students and families also should take into consideration that governments are imposing travel restrictions and quarantining returned travelers, sometimes with little notice or ability to prepare. While International SOS has the capability to evacuate patients with infectious diseases, they must still follow Governmental, Health and Aviation Authorities regulations. This may cause lengthy delays, which would be beyond the control of either UNH or International SOS.

Please note that should study abroad students want to return home without an official evacuation notice, this would not be covered by the UNH International Travel Assistance and Insurance program. We recommend that students consider purchasing optional additional trip interruption and cancellation insurance. The UNH insurance broker offers an option that you can find on our website.

A few final steps students abroad should take include downloading the International SOS Assistance App from the UNH member portal or your App Store. Please confirm and update your travel information and contact abroad details in your MyTrips accounts where you registered your international travel. In addition to enrolling students in the UNH International Travel Assistance and Insurance Program, it is how UNH communicates in the event of an emergency.

We are available to answer any questions you may have. Feel free to contact your study abroad advisor about your program, or Beth Kilinc, Senior Coordinator for Risk Management & Partnerships at +1.603.862.0128 or beth.kilinc@unh.edu.

Sincerely,

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