Dear Members of the UNH Community,

We are writing to share information about the coronavirus. The safety of our community is our highest priority. We are attentive to the global health emergency and closely monitoring this emergent situation. Imported cases of the virus in travelers have been detected in the U.S. and person-to-person spread has been seen among close contacts of returned travelers from Wuhan, but at this time, this virus is NOT currently spreading in the United States. We are acutely aware of the emergent nature of this virus and tracking the situation closely.

UNH currently has a total of 382 students studying abroad for the Spring 2020 semester. 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.

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. Accordingly, UNH cancelled student programs in China. Due to the recent CDC Level 3 Health Alert for South Korea, we are working to support the travel and study arrangements of our four students currently in Korea whose program was cancelled. UNH is cancelling a program in South Korea that has not yet started and had the one participating student remain in the U.S.

We have 96 students studying in Italy, where there has been a recent outbreak in the northern part of the country. Currently the U.S. Department of State Travel Advisory for Italy is Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution and the CDC has issued a Level 2 Health Alert for Italy, Practice Enhanced Precautions. At this time we do not prohibit student travel to locations other than China and South Korea.

For students who are currently abroad:

- Closely follow the protocols of your study abroad program and the recommendations of local government officials and International SOS.

- All UNH study abroad students are covered by the UNH International Travel Assistance and Insurance Program and enrolled in the UNH International Travel Registry that facilitates communication and support in the event of an emergency. These resources provide 24/7 assistance and communication.

- We are sensitive to the concerns of our students abroad and their loved ones. The Global Education Center Education Abroad Department will work with individual students to support their decisions and provide academic and logistical advice and resources relying on our education partnerships and risk management resources abroad and on campus. Independent of the University’s recommendations, we understand that students and families will need to make decisions that works best for them.
Students with questions about their study abroad program should contact their in-country program staff and their UNH study abroad advisor. Students with questions about their health and safety should contact their in-country emergency contact or International SOS. The Global Education Center can be reached by calling 603-862-2398 or emailing. International SOS 24/7 Alarm Center number is +1.215.942.8478; students should provide their membership number.

We encourage everyone to monitor the latest news from trusted health sources. These include Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and UNH Health & Wellness. While the CDC stresses that the immediate risk of this virus to the American public is believed to be low at this time, everyone is encouraged to do their part in response to this emerging public health threat. It’s currently flu and respiratory disease season and the CDC recommends getting a flu vaccine, taking everyday preventive actions to help stop the spread of germs and taking flu antivirals if prescribed. The CDC provides information about the virus and the latest updates on the situation.

Sincerely,

Kerryellen Vroman
Associate Vice Provost for International Programs