

March 11, 2020

Dear GV Community,

With Spring Break starting soon, we want to provide some Coronavirus or COVID-19 guidance to students, faculty and staff before you leave campus.

Grand View University has convened a pandemic response team and is actively monitoring the COVID-19 situation in consultation with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), who will provide guidance about closing if and when that becomes necessary. At this time there is no need to for the University to deviate from business as usual. Our decisions will be guided by officials at the IDPH, as they have requested. The actions taken by other colleges and universities will inform us, but will not determine our course of action as each institution needs to consider its own factors. We will continue communicating with students, faculty and staff as the situation develops.

In the meantime, we are taking measures to keep our campus community safe and making plans to accommodate a temporary cessation of in-class instruction or campus closure, <u>if</u> those actions are warranted.

As of March 10, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has identified five countries that are a high risk for the spread of Coronavirus: China, Iran, Italy, Japan and South Korea.

Grand View encourages anyone who visits a country that the CDC has identified as a high risk for COVID-19 to follow public health recommendations. For the latest information, please visit Grand View's emergency information web page here. If you travel to these areas, you should notify Grand View to make arrangements for reentry to campus.

There are no other travel advisories or restrictions pertaining to Coronavirus, either internationally or within the United States. However, when traveling, be sure to stay informed as the situation may escalate rapidly. In addition, be prepared for potential travel delays and/or restrictions.

And whether you are traveling or not, there are some basic things we should all be doing to help prevent the spread of viruses:

- If you are sick, stay home.
- Cover your mouth with your upper arm or a tissue when coughing or sneezing
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcoholbased hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

This virus is most concerning for older individuals and those with compromised immune systems. To date, none of the confirmed cases in Iowa involve college-age population. If you feel you are at risk, please notify Student Life (if you are a student) or your supervisor (if you are an employee) so we can assist you in keeping yourself safe.

While there are many legitimate concerns about Coronavirus, being well informed and taking some preventive steps can keep us healthy and safe, and enjoy our time during Spring Break.

Kent Henning President

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