

Dear Members of the Meredith Community,

The College's Incident Response Team has been actively monitoring the ongoing situation involving coronavirus or COVID-19. We remain focused on the ongoing health, safety and well-being of all members of the Meredith community.

As of today, March 4, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control is reporting 80 cases, resulting in nine deaths of COVID-19 in the United States. In North Carolina, we have one travel-related case; the patient is doing well and is self-isolating at home. At this time, the immediate risk to campus remains low. We encourage everyone to continue to take the following preventative measures to keep themselves and our community well:

- stay home if you are ill,
- wash your hands frequently, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water,
- disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched,
- avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth,
- cover your mouth and nose when you cough and sneeze, and
- discard tissues after a single use in a closed container.

If you are considering international or domestic travel during spring break, stay informed and monitor travel advisories related to the outbreak of COVID-19. It is important to independently review information about COVID-19 and to ask your own health care provider about concerns or questions you may have in order to make an individual decision about whether to travel at this time. This is a rapidly evolving situation, and some areas may implement new entry and exit control measures with very little notice. These actions could severely impact your plans, budgets, and/or delay your return to campus.

If you develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, such as a cough or difficulty breathing, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or have recently traveled to an area with ongoing spread, call ahead to your primary care provider's office and tell them about your recent travel or contact. Your healthcare professional will work with your local public health department and CDC to determine if you need to be tested for COVID-19. It is important that you call ahead for proper triage care. Additionally, if you are showing any signs of a contagious illness (e.g., fever, difficulty breathing, coughing, congestion, etc.), remember to limit the number of people you have contact with to help decrease the chance of spreading the illness to others.

Centers for Disease Control: <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>

World Health Organization:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Meredith College Coronavirus Information: <https://www.meredith.edu/health-services/coronavirus-information>

Sincerely,

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