

Dear members of the Northwestern community,

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is now spreading more rapidly in the U.S., and Northwestern is taking action and offering guidance to keep our community as safe as possible as this health crisis evolves. This message offers the latest information on changes to Northwestern's policies and guidance, while our [COVID-19 website](#) remains the primary source for information about the University's response and includes updated answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs).

We plan to continue to share email messages like this one when significant new guidance is issued, but the website will be updated regularly to keep the campus community informed with real-time information and FAQs.

State of Illinois Disaster Proclamation

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker issued a disaster proclamation for the state of Illinois on Monday. This is a necessary step for the state to receive federal resources and funding aimed at controlling the outbreak.

Campus Events and Visitors

Given the situation, with resources being taxed across our campuses and our desire to protect our community, we are asking that schools and units consider postponing any events or gatherings, either on campus or off, until April 15. It is important that we practice good social-distancing measures that have been suggested by public health agencies. Limiting large gatherings on our campus will help minimize the chance of community spread. The [FAQs](#) provide guidance on how to consider making these decisions.

We are not restricting individual visitors to campus, but we expect members of our community to follow the guidance on events and visitors offered in the [FAQs](#). Please remember that limiting the number of guests on campus could help minimize the risk to our entire Northwestern community.

Domestic Travel

At this time, public health agencies have not offered guidance restricting domestic travel. We recommend you consult with the local county public health department in the area you are planning to visit to see if there are local restrictions or guidance about travel and activities there. You can check the current status of cases in your destination [here](#).

However, given the amount of uncertainty and the importance of focusing our collective efforts on weathering this storm on campus, we are asking that faculty and staff seriously consider rescheduling non-essential

domestic business travel at this time.

Please note that we do ask that faculty and staff be cognizant of special risk factors. Please avoid traveling to any areas that are currently highly impacted by the virus, and please avoid traveling if you are older or have health complications, as recommended by the CDC.

Spring Break

There are no plans to cancel Spring Break. As previously communicated, all University-sponsored international Spring Break programs have been cancelled. Residence halls will remain open over break.

Spring Quarter

Discussions continue about spring quarter, and more information will be communicated about that planning by the end of the week. At this time, we still plan to have spring quarter as scheduled on campus. However, given the circumstances, the University is evaluating various scenarios, including whether the timing of the quarter may need to be adjusted or whether classes need to be altered and delivered remotely. Schools and programs are working on academic contingency plans, and we will communicate any updates when they become available. We will update you as quickly as possible on any changes.

International Travel

All University-related travel to CDC-designated Level 3 countries (currently China, Iran, Italy and South Korea) is prohibited. Northwestern recommends faculty and staff defer any non-essential international business travel, and we ask that you seek approval from your vice president or dean in cases where global business travel is deemed essential.

At this time, there are no plans to cancel undergraduate or graduate programs abroad for the spring or summer quarters. However, we are closely monitoring the dynamics of countries around the globe, and students should be prepared that this could change at any time.

This situation affords us an opportunity to reiterate that while we are all committed to teaching and learning, our own health and well-being is of utmost importance. Please take care of yourselves as we continue to navigate this dynamic situation.

Sincerely,

Morton Schapiro
President and Professor

Craig Johnson

Senior Vice President for Business and Finance

Julie Payne-Kirchmeier

Interim Vice President for Student Affairs