

## OVERVIEW

### What do I need to know?

- **There are NO confirmed cases of coronavirus in Claremont or outlying communities currently.**
- Unless you have recently traveled from abroad or have been around someone with the Coronavirus, your risk of being infected is low. If you have traveled abroad and are experiencing symptoms, contact Student Health Services at 909-621-8222 BEFORE going to work, attending class or other group gatherings.
- This is an evolving situation; the [CDC coronavirus website](#) is the best source of up to the minute information.
- If needed, updates specific to Los Angeles County will be posted on the [Los Angeles County Public Health](#) website.
- While CDC considers this a serious public health concern, the immediate health ***risk to the general American public is considered low at this time.***

### What is the new Coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread between people such as with MERS and SARS. Human coronaviruses are common throughout the world. Several different known coronaviruses can infect people and make them sick. Some were identified many years ago and some more recently.

### How is the Coronavirus spread?

Like other respiratory illnesses, such as influenza, human coronaviruses most commonly spread to others from an infected person who has symptoms through:

- Through droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes
- Close personal contact, such as caring for an infected person
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands

Novel coronavirus is new, and we are learning more each day about how it spreads and how long it takes for people to become sick. As information becomes available, we will keep you informed. Do not assume that someone of Asian descent is likely to have coronavirus.

### What are the signs and symptoms of the Coronavirus?

Symptoms are similar to other respiratory viruses. If you have these symptoms it does not necessarily mean you have this new virus! Unless you have recently traveled abroad or have been around someone ill with this new virus, your risk of getting sick is low.

### Symptoms include:

- Fever (may not always be present)
- Coughing
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

**Other early symptoms to look for include:**

- Chills
- Body aches
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea/vomiting
- Runny nose

**TREATMENT AND PREVENTION****What should I do if I have a fever or have the symptoms of the flu? Do I need to be isolated?**

Individuals who have had recent travel within the last 14 days abroad and are experiencing symptoms or who have been in close contact with those who are ill and recently traveled to affected regions are advised to call **Student Health Service at 909-621-8222. After hours or weekends, call Campus Safety at (909) 607-2000.** Faculty and staff should contact their regular health care provider. For other illnesses, stay at home to avoid spreading illness to others until you have been without a fever for 24 hours. If you do not fall into the above category and feel sick, we want you to still get medical care. You can contact SHS for an appointment.

**Does the flu shot prevent the Coronavirus?**

No, the flu shot is formulated to match influenza viruses expected to be circulating in the United States during the 2019-2020 flu season. The influenza virus is a different genetic makeup from the coronavirus.

**Does wearing a face mask help me if I'm NOT sick?**

The CDC has indicated that wearing face masks routinely is not recommended for people who are well. Handwashing and avoiding touching your face are the most effective method of illness prevention.

**What should I do to prevent the spread of infection?**

The Centers for Disease Control and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health tell us the most effective means of protection are the same as those precautions that prevent other illnesses such as the flu:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- It is especially important to wash your hands:
  - Before, during, and after you prepare food.
  - Before you eat and after you use the bathroom.
  - After handling cash.
  - More frequently when someone in your house is sick.
  - Before/after smoking/vaping.
  - Before/after using public computers.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Frequently clean your doorknobs, light switches, and other commonly touched areas with disinfectant wipes.
- Avoid contact with sick people.

- Stay home if you are sick or have a fever of 100 degrees.
- Flu and other serious respiratory illnesses are commonly spread by cough, sneezing, or unclean hands. Covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing prevents the spread of a virus.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

## RESPONDING TO CONCERNS

### **If there is an infection of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) on campus, will The Claremont Colleges isolate the individual?**

In the event of a Claremont Colleges student testing positive for the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the patient would receive appropriate medical attention and would be under monitoring of public health officials. The Los Angeles Department County of Public Health has indicated that it will work directly with colleges and universities to assess roommates or suitemates concerned about close contact to determine their needs and next steps. It is important to remember this is a potentially evolving situation and the safety and health of our students is of the utmost concern and will take precedence.

### **How can I know if I might have been in contact with an affected patient?**

Local public officials will conduct a “contact tracing” measure with identified patients and proactively contact any individuals who might have had an exposure. They will work with any individuals who may be affected to monitor if any symptoms develop.

### **If someone who has recently traveled to China or other affected area and is on campus, should they be isolated or held in quarantine?**

Any recent traveler from an affected area who has symptoms (fever and respiratory symptoms such as sore throat, cough, or difficulty breathing) should contact Student Health (909-621-8222) immediately.

### **How are travelers from China being screened when they reenter the United States?**

At this time, American citizens, lawful permanent residents, and family members who have been in China in the past 14 days will be allowed to enter the United States. Those travelers will be directed to one of 11 US airports and will be screened for fever and symptoms and asked questions about their travel in China and exposure. Those travelers will have some level of restriction on their movement depending on their health and travel history.

For more information: [Travelers from China Arriving in the United States](#)

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has repeated stated that “people should not be excluded from activities based on their race, country of origin, or recent travel if they do not have symptoms of respiratory illness.”

### **How many cases are there in LA County? How fast is it spreading?**

Please visit the [LA County Department of Public Health](#) for continual updates on the Coronavirus as it relates to ongoing monitoring of the virus in the county. We can expect to see more confirmed U.S. cases in addition to these first confirmed cases as screenings at eleven (11) airport points of entry in the United States continue to screen passengers traveling from China.

**I am worried about friends and family in impacted areas. What can I do to help?**

It's hard knowing people you care about are in the middle of a potentially scary situation far away. We know that this has been a difficult time for many members of our community. Please know we are here for you and encourage you to reach out for support. Students who want to meet with a counselor can call 909-621-8202.

We urge all members of our community to treat one another with compassion rather than suspicion. If you notice anyone is ill or have not been to class, please share your concerns with your Resident Advisor and Student Dean.

Students can also help their families back home by letting them know they are taking good care of themselves. The best advice for not getting sick is to practice frequent handwashing and staying out of close contact with people who might be sick.

**THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES COMMUNITY**

**Are any Claremont Colleges students currently studying abroad in China?**

The Claremont Colleges do not have any students currently studying abroad in China. CGU does have two students who are traveling in China and are unable to return to the United States due to travel restrictions. These students are on a leave of absence for the spring term.

**What are the current advisories for international travel?**

The CDC has identified affected geographic areas with widespread or sustained community transmission and offers the following travel guidelines.

<b>Caution Level</b>	<b>Impacted Countries</b>	<b>Advisory</b>
Warning Level 3	China South Korea	CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel.
Alert Level 2	Iran Italy Japan	These destinations are experiencing sustained community transmission of respiratory illness caused by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The virus can spread from person to person. Older adults and those with chronic medical conditions should consider postponing nonessential travel.
Watch Level 1	Hong Kong	CDC does not recommend canceling or postponing travel to the following destinations. Travelers should practice usual precautions.
Other Destinations with Risk of Community Spread	Singapore Thailand Taiwan	Community spread means people have been infected with the virus, including some who are not sure how or where they became infected. At this time, the extent of virus spread is not sustained or widespread enough to meet the criteria for a travel health notice. If that changes, CDC will update.

The Claremont Colleges (TCC) is discouraging all travel to all Level 3 countries in accordance with CDC guidelines. Students are encouraged to be mindful of travel to these countries and should discuss with any concerns with study abroad program coordinators.

When returning from destinations abroad, the CDC will advise of circumstances where self-isolation may be required due to travel. Please consider this potential requirement when travel planning,

**What do you advise students considering spring break or summer travel internationally?**

For members of the TCC community who choose to travel internationally during spring break or during the months ahead, we urge awareness that the COVID-19 situation is continuously evolving. If making travel plans, please consider the following:

COVID-19 may spread in countries with identified cases or to new areas. Recently, community spread that is not linked to other cases or recent travel to mainland China has been observed. TCC continues to assess risk based on the number of cases, community spread, public health infrastructure, as well as other factors. Please check for any new travel restriction updates before departing the United States. The [CDC](#) and the [Department of State](#) are the best resources for the latest information.

- Please stay actively alert to changes and developments that may affect your plans.
- Monitor travel advisories daily, including potential restrictions on border crossings or closed borders. Countries you visit may decide to implement travel restrictions with very little notice, impacting your ability to return to campus.
- Airlines may cancel/limit flights in or out of a country or region.
- Additional quarantine measures may be applied by the U.S. and other countries.
- Re-entry to the U.S. could be restricted.
- Prior to your return to campus, CDC guidelines may require you to self-isolate depending on your travel.
- International students and foreign nationals should check their immigration documents before leaving the U.S. If you are unable to return to the U.S. for the start of the quarter, your visa status may be impacted.

**What cleaning and disinfecting procedures are being utilized by TCC?**

The LA County Department of Public Health has advised colleges and universities that special processes beyond routine cleaning is not necessary nor recommended to slow the spread of respiratory illness. Schools should follow standard procedures for routine cleaning and disinfecting with an EPA-registered product. Typically, this means daily sanitizing surfaces and objects that are touched often, such as bathrooms, water coolers, desks, countertops, doorknobs, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, and phones.

The Claremont Colleges use these EPA-approved products and has increased touch-point cleaning in addition to common areas to include doorknobs, light switches, etc. In many cases, some colleges are taking additional above and beyond measures to provide enhanced cleaning. Staff and faculty are reminded to regularly sanitize office equipment including keyboard, mouse, and phone.

**Do campus events need to be canceled?**

The LA County Department of Public Health has advised colleges and universities that there is no need to cancel school or social events at this time. There are no restrictions on public gatherings. Faculty, staff, and students should be reminded that part of good health hygiene is staying home from events when they are ill.