

**Subject:** College of Public Health and COVID-19: Long email, but please read.

**Date:** Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 6:00:41 PM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** CPH Faculty & Staff on behalf of Marsha Davis

**To:** CPH-FACSTAFF@LISTSERV.UGA.EDU

Dear Colleagues,

The UGA College of Public Health leadership has been closely monitoring the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. There are many unknowns, but we can take steps now to be prepared to protect ourselves, our campus community and our families.

Here is what we know as of Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 6:00 pm:

There are two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state of Georgia.

- UGA has had no suspected cases of coronavirus at UGA, and UGA has not been notified of any member of the campus community with the virus.
- UGA has suspended study abroad programs for Spring and Maymester in Italy, China and South Korea. This decision was based on these countries having a [CDC Warning Level of 3](#) or higher. There may be more suspensions on the horizon.

The College has been asked by UGA administration to submit continuity of learning and continuity of business plans by March 20<sup>th</sup>. We are working to do assemble these plans, as well as set of guidelines and resources for you. For now, I want to highlight my advice and expectations going forward.

1. We care about the health and well-being of our CPH community. To protect yourself and each other, practice personal prevention strategies –

- Get your flu shot, if you haven't done so already.
- Wash your hands frequently, especially after touching common surfaces, such as doorknobs and handling food.

2. If you develop cold or flu symptoms, please stay home. In doing so, you are not only caring for yourself, but for others.

3. Faculty should prepare alternative instruction plans. Now is the time to familiarize yourself with Zoom, eLC, and other online learning platforms. Seek out the assistance of our IT Office and Office of Academic Affairs.

4. Faculty should revisit their attendance policies that incline sick students to attend class. Students should not be penalized for absenteeism if they have cold or flu symptoms or during any period of self-quarantine.

5. Consider the potential for faculty, staff, or student self-quarantine.

- Anyone who travels to country with a Warning Level 3 or higher are required to self-quarantine for 14 days and should not return to any UGA campus until they have been asymptomatic for 14 days.

6. Prepare yourself for the event of a campus closure or community quarantine.

- [Prepare your household with the necessary supplies.](#)
- Now is the time to take stock of any materials you'd need to continue to work or teach

remotely.

7. Stay informed. I do not recommend gathering news and updates on COVID-19 from social media. Rather, the [CDC](#) and [Georgia Department of Public Health](#) will have the most current and accurate information.

8. If you receive any questions or hear concerns from students, please direct them to <http://uga.edu/coronavirus> for the University's list of resources for students. As I noted above, our Communications Office is preparing responses and best practices for our diverse campus community, but please refer to the above resources for the time being.

For questions related to workplace concerns and business continuity planning, please contact Tina Supakordej, Financial Director, at [tsupakor@uga.edu](mailto:tsupakor@uga.edu) or 706-542-4790

For academic questions related to planning, please contact Erin Lipp, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, at [elipp@uga.edu](mailto:elipp@uga.edu) or 706-542-1221.

For questions related to external grant preparation or submissions, please contact Tim Heckman, Senior Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Affairs, [heckman@uga.edu](mailto:heckman@uga.edu), or 740-707-6624.

The University has asked that all communications about COVID-19 come from the Dean's Office. If you have any questions or specific issues that you'd like to address with the CPH community, please contact me at your convenience.

Finally, as I receive updated information from UGA leaders, I will share it with you all.

These times illustrate the importance of public health and the work we do. The outbreak of COVID-19 affects our personal health and those of our family and friends, presents a timely opportunity to advance the science of infectious disease, and may require us to rapidly innovate the ways we deliver instruction and collaborate with our national and international colleagues. At its core, the outbreak should remind us of the responsibility we at the UGA College of Public Health to become a leader in the field. Thank you for all you are doing to keep our community and the public safe.

Marsha