



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Marywood University

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Marywood University's Update Regarding COVID-19

Scranton, PA (March 10, 2020) — To All Members of the Marywood Community:

In response to the rapidly evolving developments related to the COVID-19 virus, and in conjunction with Marywood University's Emergency Response Team, who has been closely monitoring the situation, we are making a number of recommendations to promote a safe and healthy environment for our community.

To Students, Faculty, and Staff:

At this time, the university is proceeding with most scheduled events, classes and operations, including athletic events. However, some events may be cancelled or postponed as a precaution. Please note that the situation can change quickly, and we will post any updates to our News link marywood.edu/coronavirus.

Important facts to know:

- COVID-19 does not recognize race, nationality or ethnicity.
- Not all international travel warrants restriction from the campus/classroom.
- Someone who has completed quarantine or isolation does not pose a risk of infection to others.

- You can break the stigma by sharing accurate information. Speak up if you hear, see or read misinformation. If you witness or experience harassment or discrimination, please report it immediately to the Director of Equity and Inclusion, Dr. Yerodin Lucas at ylucas@marywood.edu

Important COVID-19 updates:

- To date, **there have been no cases diagnosed in the campus community.**
- At this time, Pennsylvania has 10 presumptive positive cases of COVID-19.
- As new cases continue to be identified in the United States and abroad, **Students are asked to please notify Student Health Services at healthservice@marywood.edu or 570-348-6249 if you have been diagnosed, tested or suspected to have COVID-19. Staff are asked to notify Human Resources in the same event.**
- ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO IS SICK is instructed to **stay home from class, campus events, or work.**
- Faculty and managers are asked to accommodate students and employees who stay home while sick.
- Anyone who has traveled to China, South Korea, Italy, Iran or Japan, must stay home and **self-quarantine and monitor your health for 14 days** from the day you return to the United States.
- Per [guidance](#) from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the self-quarantine recommendation currently does not apply in general to travelers who only transit through an airport in one of these countries
- **All students, faculty, and staff are to register international travel** using Marywood's International Itinerary Registry. [International Itinerary](#)
- **For persons covered under the Marywood employee health plan,** cost-sharing associated with physician-ordered diagnostic testing for novel coronavirus will be waived for all fully insured members. Highmark will also default all members, including High Deductible Health Plan members, as recipients of this cost-sharing relief.

Students needing to self-quarantine are encouraged to consider doing so at home or in a setting that minimizes contact with others. Student Life is working to make alternative housing arrangements on campus for students who need a place to self-quarantine.

Future travel

As the situation continues to change quickly, travel disruptions related to the virus are possible. **We recommend that you carefully consider global travel given current uncertainties.** Impact on travel may include flight cancellations, additional health screenings,

quarantine, restrictions on re-entering the United States, or requirements to self-quarantine upon arrival.

If you plan to travel in the near future, it's important to build in as much flexibility as possible into your plans. **You must register your international travel – personal or MU-related – using the MU International Itinerary Registry.** [International Itinerary](#) The travel registry is the university's official means for sharing urgent health, safety and security related information, and we will be sharing information with all registered travelers.

We are assisting students who were studying abroad and returning from Level 3 countries and will continue to monitor the conditions overseas. International programs not in the Level 3 countries are currently proceeding as planned, except for some that have been canceled by individual units. If you have questions about your education abroad program, please contact the program directly.

Living Our Values

These precautionary measures are being taken because the safety of our campus community remains our top priority. We remind everyone that this is an opportunity to come together, not to spread fear or mistrust. COVID-19's proliferation from its origins in China has been accompanied by unfortunate reports of bias and misinformation.

In addition, it is important to note that not everyone who has traveled internationally is at increased risk of having the illness. This virus knows no geopolitical boundaries. Every effort needs to be made to dispel misinformation. The COVID-19 is not linked to specific individuals or ethnic groups. We must support and maintain a healthy campus climate of inclusiveness and respect.

Marywood University continues to greatly value the diversity of our community. It is critical that we equip ourselves with facts and each take on the responsibility of dismantling the myths and stigmas that may result in rampant ignorance and discrimination towards one another.

While we have not received any reports of harassment or discrimination on campus related to COVID-19, it is essential that we continue to share accurate information during this time of heightened concern. We must stay committed to our mission and values of inclusion, respect and care for the whole person.

Sister Mary Persico, IHM, Ed.D., President of Marywood University

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