

March 6, 2020

Dear Midwestern University Faculty, Staff and Students,

As the news continues to focus on the coronavirus (COVID-19), it is important that we as an academic health care community continue to focus on the information available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>) which is updated on a regular basis. At Midwestern University, we have taken a number of steps to assure our campuses continue to be safe, secure and healthy. I have implemented a program that is entitled “[Planning but not Panicking.](#)”

What is the coronavirus?

The coronavirus is a family of viruses that cause respiratory illness such as a common cold, or more serious respiratory illnesses. Most cases are mild with respiratory complications such as fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. More severe cases can lead to pneumonia.

What should you do?

At this time there are no identified cases in the Midwestern University community. Health authorities throughout the world are focused on this illness and the Public Health Departments in both Illinois and Arizona have implemented programs to identify and assist all institutions. As a reminder, our goal is to keep our faculty, staff, and students safe and healthy. The best prevention is to regularly use good, healthy personal habits:

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Call your health care provider if you have a fever, cough or difficulty breathing before you go to a healthcare facility or a hospital emergency room.
- Keep your hands away from your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Wash your hands frequently with warm, soapy water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you sneeze or cough; discard tissue in the trash and wash your hands!
- Frequently clean commonly touched surfaces.
- Try to avoid friends and colleagues who have respiratory symptoms.

What is Northwestern University doing?

Our proactive steps include the following in all of our campus environments:

1. Both our Glendale and Downers Grove campuses will have a special cleaning crew on March 7 and March 8, 2020 to complete a deep clean and sanitize our public areas, clinics, classrooms, labs, and testing centers.
2. We will enhance our weekday cleaning practices on both campuses, beginning on March 9, 2020.
3. We are providing sanitizing wipes in lobby areas around the campuses for faculty and staff to be able to wipe down a hard surface and then properly dispose of the sheets.
4. We have ordered hand sanitizer stations for the lobby areas and outside of classrooms.

University Campus Emergency Notification System

If you haven't already, I encourage you to activate the Rave Alert Text Messaging Notification System found through your online portal in order to receive important University notices on your mobile devices.

Travel Restrictions

1. While we have no MWU-sanctioned mission trips planned for travel to South Korea, Italy, Iran, China or Japan, we are discouraging anyone going on clinical rotations, vacations or conferences to these locations at this time.
2. If you have traveled or are planning travel to any of these countries, employees must notify Human Resources and students must inform their Academic Dean/Program Director and the Dean of Students.
3. Upon returning from these destinations, you must begin a 14-day self-quarantine period. This requirement is in keeping with the guidelines of the State Health Departments and the CDC standards. If you live on campus, immediately notify Dr. Ross Kosinski, Dean of Students (rkosin@midwestern.edu).

Special Events

Midwestern University is not cancelling any events on campus at this time, but we are monitoring the COVID-19 website for periodical updates.

Emergency Response Team

Midwestern University has an active and engaged Emergency Response Team on both campuses that have been in place for many years. These teams plan for any business interruption that could impact the education of our students. Currently they are working closely with the key University departments to assure that classes can be recorded and

distributed to all of our students. Our hospital partners and many clinics have assured us that they continue to need our students in clinical settings and want them to be prepared for any illness outbreak in the years to come.

As a member of our health care academic community, you are encouraged to go to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website and monitor the plans and actions available for higher education institutions. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html>.)

Ms. Amy Gibson, Director of Human Resources (agibso@midwestern.edu) and Dr. Ross Kosinski, Dean of Students will issue updates in the days to come. Should you have concerns, please direct them to the Human Resources Department, the Dean of Students or my office. We will address all of your concerns and issues as we remain committed to healthy practices and relaying trusted information.

It is important for you to know that we are all carefully **Planning but not Panicking** as we implement safety precautions for all of our faculty, staff, and students. Please also know that you are all valued and important to our mission.

Thank you all. Stay healthy and happy.

Dr. G.

Kathleen H. Goepfinger, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Midwestern University