

March 11, 2020

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

As we continue to carefully monitor the COVID-19 news and review the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for universities and colleges, I would like to update you on Phase Two of [Planning Not Panicking](#) activities that have been implemented at Northwestern University.

Let me begin by stating we have no known cases on the Downers Grove or Glendale campuses. However, as the news continues to identify areas seeing outbreaks, we are implementing the following steps:

Travel

We are recommending that faculty and staff postpone “non-essential travel” at this time. Also, you are encouraged to avoid travel to New York City, New York or Washington state due to the number of known cases in these areas. We also discouraging anyone from taking a cruise at this time, due to the possibility of being quarantined.

As many conferences around the country have cancelled, please consider not attending any large gatherings. Business Services is working on a plan for any faculty or staff that have prepaid hotel and airfare that are linked to a cancelled conference or meeting.

Large Community Events

At this time, we have no major scheduled community events on the Downers Grove Campus. However, on the Glendale campus, in response to the CDC’s recommendation to limit everyone’s exposure to large public gatherings, Northwestern University will postpone its annual College of Veterinary Medicine’s Open House originally scheduled for Saturday, March 28th until sometime later this fall.

Additionally, on the Glendale Campus we annually host the American Diabetes Association, Tour de Cure which attracts over 3,000 participants from around the state. This event originally scheduled for Saturday, March 14th has been cancelled by the American Diabetes Association.

Cleaning and Sanitizing Efforts

Over this past weekend, our Campus Facilities departments completed the deep cleaning and sanitizing of our public areas, clinics, classrooms, labs, and testing centers. In all, we cleaned and sanitized almost one million square feet on the Downers Grove Campus and the Glendale Campus combined. We will continue our increased cleaning efforts for as long as necessary. Additional cleaning crews are on campus daily as we continue to sanitize all surfaces.

Emergency Response Team (ERT)

A special subcommittee has been established to regularly review releases from the CDC, monitor our processes, and determine whether we need to modify any University actions in order to keep on top of this very dynamic situation. This group is meeting at least weekly to determine the best practices to continue to educate our students and serve the many patients that depend on all of our clinic operations.

As always, I thank you all for your continued commitment to our mission of academic excellence for all of our students. Please stay well and healthy. Follow all the recommended guidelines and please do not come on campus if you are ill.

Dr. G.

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