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 China or have been around someone with the Coronavirus, your risk of being infected is low. If you have traveled from China 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, based on current location, the immediate health risk to the general American public is considered low at this time.

What is the new Coronavirus?
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 to China or have been around someone ill with this new virus, your risk of getting sick is near zero.

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 in China 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.
Coronavirus Frequently Asked Questions

As of February 14, 2020

- 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 (2019-CoV) on campus, will The Claremont Colleges isolate the individual?
In the event of a Claremont Colleges student testing positive for the Coronavirus (2019-CoV), 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 is on campus, should they be isolated or held in quarantine?
Any recent traveler from China who has symptoms (fever and respiratory symptoms such as sore throat, cough, or difficulty breathing) should contact Student Health (909-621-8222) immediately.

What are the new guidelines for those who have returned to the U.S. since February 3, 2020?
Because of the increase in the number of new cases in mainland China the past few days, the White House recently issued a set of new directives that became effective on February 3. The orders mandate the following:

Require all US citizens, legal permanent residents, and their close family members returning from mainland China to enter through one of eleven airports in the US (including LAX), where they will be screened by US Customs and Border Protection agents.

- If travelers show signs of respiratory illness, they will be transported to a health care facility for further evaluation to determine whether they need further medical assessment and care.
- All travelers who were in the Hubei Province at any time in the past 14 days are considered high risk and need to be quarantined and monitored at a safe location for 14 days from their last exposure.
- Returning travelers from other places in mainland China who have been in close contact with a confirmed case of novel coronavirus in the last 14 days are considered high risk and will be quarantined and monitored at a safe location for 14 days.
• All other returning travelers from mainland China outside Hubei Province are considered medium risk and can travel to their final destination. Once they arrive, they are asked to practice social distancing, stay home, and monitor their health for 14 days. Public health departments will follow-up with all travelers designated medium risk.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health said in a statement that it appears this latest case does not threaten public health, cautioning, “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.”

**What is social distancing as referenced above?**
Social distancing means remaining out of public places where close contact with others may occur [e.g., dormitories, schools and other classroom settings, cafeterias, shopping centers, movie theaters, stadiums, workplaces (unless the person works in an office space that allows complete distancing from others), and local public conveyances (e.g., bus, subway, taxi, ride share)] for the duration of the potential incubation period unless presence in such locations is approved by Public Health.

**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.
At this time, do you anticipate modifying Family Weekend or Alumni Weekend programs in recognition of national travel restrictions and advisories?
The Claremont Colleges do not have any plans to modify any Family Weekend or Alumni Weekend programs. The government's travel restrictions and warnings will support our interest in keeping our community safe.

What do you advise students considering spring break or summer travel internationally?
The 2019 Coronavirus outbreak has been concentrated in China, and CDC recommends avoiding all nonessential travel while the US Department of State advises no travel to China. For travel advice for other countries, please visit that country's Destination Page or the Travel Health Notice website. The Claremont Colleges will continue to monitor the spread of the virus advising students of other potential travel concerns.

Students are encouraged to closely evaluate non-essential travel throughout the Asia region during the spring semester. If you are currently making plans for international travel:

- Consider purchasing travel insurance in case of a disruption to your plans.
- Consider the possibility that countries you are visiting may decide to implement restrictions while you are outside the U.S., the potential cancellation of flights and the possibility of additional quarantine measures or restricted re-entry into the United States.

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.