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## Coronavirus Update February11, 2020

Office of Communications

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Dear Kenyon families,

We have been following the reports of the coronavirus closely and tracking the guidance of global health authorities as they seek to contain it. While the number of cases reported in the U.S. remains extremely low, several agencies have issued new advisories out of an abundance of caution. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the novel coronavirus outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and both the U.S. State Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have raised their travel advisories for China to their highest levels.

Kenyon does not have any College-sponsored travel to China planned for the spring semester, nor does it have students currently studying abroad there. Marne Ausec, director of the center for global engagement, is available to consult with students whose personal travel plans may be affected by the advisories.

Currently, influenza poses a greater risk to our community than the coronavirus, and in a notice to students and employees last week, we encouraged members of our campus community to follow effective practices for preventing both: to wash hands thoroughly; to avoid touching the eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands; to sneeze or cough into a tissue or an elbow; to sanitize objects and surfaces that are frequently touched; and to stay home when feeling ill. Kenyon students who are experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness — fever, cough, difficulty breathing — should contact their primary care physician or the Cox Health and Counseling Center at 740-427-5525.

While we encourage everyone to take seriously the recommendations issued by the global health authorities, we also ask that you be mindful that the reports from across the globe may hit especially close to home for some members of our community. Those with family and friends in China may be experiencing heightened anxiety and uncertainty, as well as feeling unjustly scrutinized. We appreciate everyone in the Kenyon community extending their kindness and support, especially to our students.

If you have health-related questions, please contact [Chris Smith](#), director of health and counseling services; for questions about international travel, please reach out to [Marne Ausec](#), director, Center for Global Engagement.

Sincerely,

Marne Ausec, director, Center for Global Engagement  
Meredith Harper Bonham, vice president for student affairs  
Joe Klesner, provost  
Chris Smith, director of health and counseling services

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