January 24, 2020

Information regarding Coronavirus

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

In light of the Coronavirus outbreak first identified in Wuhan, China and recent cases in the U.S. including Chicago, the University has been monitoring the situation, will continue to do so and is sharing the following information to raise awareness and inform the University community.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), patients with confirmed 2019-nCoV infection have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of:

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath

CDC believes at this time that symptoms of 2019-nCoV may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure. Source: CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/symptoms.html

If you have been in Wuhan, China, in the last two weeks or know someone who may have novel coronavirus AND you have symptoms, please call your health care provider so they can make arrangements for you to be assessed. Source: Illinois Department of Public Health: http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus

On a local level, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) has reassured the general public that the risk of the virus spreading still remains low. The second case of coronavirus in the United States was first confirmed Friday morning. The patient recently returned to Chicago from Wuhan, China, where an outbreak of pneumonia caused by the virus has been ongoing since December 2019. Source: https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/cdph/provdrs/health_protection_and_response/news/2020/january/city-of-chicago-announces-first-local-patient-with-travel-relate.html

While the risk is low, as is the case with any potential health threat, being prepared to respond is critically important. DePaul has emergency plans in place for responding to public health emergencies, which will be activated as needed.

Moreover, we are always working to educate the campus community about best practices for minimizing the spread of any infectious disease, whether it would be the flu or Coronavirus. It's always a good idea to practice good hand-washing and basic hygiene. That cuts down on the risk of person-to-person spread of many infectious diseases.

For those of you who are planning international travel, please visit https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/china#travel-notices for the most recent notices related to this virus.

We will continue to work with state and local departments of public health to ensure the university is prepared to respond.

Thank you,
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Cheryl Hover  
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