



International Travel Oversight Committee

February 25, 2020

To WashU International Travelers:

WashU is closely monitoring the COVID-19 outbreak, both in mainland China and its cascading impacts globally. In the past few days, there has been an increase in coronavirus cases outside of mainland China that has caused heightened concern.

As of February 25, 2020, the International Travel Oversight Committee (ITOC) Executive Body is implementing a travel suspension condition for all university travel to South Korea. This is in accordance with [Centers for Disease Control Warning – Level 3, Avoid Nonessential travel health notice](#) and the [university's international travel policy](#).

This is an expansion of the travel suspension condition dated January 29, 2020, pertaining to mainland China. Travel suspension conditions are re-evaluated by the ITOC Executive Body when the Centers for Disease Control and/or U.S. Department of State change the level of their respective travel advisories.

We recognize that there has been increased coronavirus activity even beyond China and South Korea. At this time, there are no other university travel suspension conditions in place. That does not mean that travel to other destinations does not carry the potential for disruption. Due to increased coronavirus activity, the CDC has issued [Alert-Level 2, Practice Enhanced Precautions travel health notices](#) for Italy and Japan. It is important that all those traveling internationally at this time, regardless of destination, remain aware of changing conditions and possible trip interruptions. As COVID-19 has developed, some countries, including the United States, have implemented travel restrictions that prohibit entry and departure dependent on where a traveler has been in the recent past. Airlines have also altered flights. These restrictions are not always easy to predict.

We strongly encourage you to review your itinerary and understand the risks of traveling to your particular destination well before your departure. The CDC has published a "[Travel: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers](#)" page on its website with additional information. Additional country-specific from the CDC can be found [here](#).

As a reminder, it is required that all university-sponsored and supported international travel must be registered in the university's travel registry, [MyTrips](#). This is a requirement outlined in the [university's international travel policy](#). This step is especially critical, given the quick pace with which this situation continues to change. Travelers are also welcome to register details of their supplemental itineraries, such as spring break plans, so that you can receive notifications from International SOS. Travelers can also check in to their location using the [International SOS Assistance app](#). Doing so ensures that travelers receive the most up-to-date alerts regarding COVID-19 from International SOS.

WashU places the highest priority on our travelers' safety and security. Please contact itoc@wustl.edu with any additional questions. All university travel updates can be found [here](#). Questions related to health or healthcare should be directed to medical professionals.