

International Travel Oversight Committee

February 25, 2020

To WashU study abroad students in Italy:

WashU is closely monitoring the COVID-19 outbreak, both in mainland China and around the world. In the past few days, there has been an increase in coronavirus cases outside of mainland China, specifically in Italy, that has caused some concern. We recognize that the increased activity and the associated cascading effects may have impacted your studies, travel plans, or overall experience.

We remain in contact with your host institution/ program to ensure your safety and well-being while abroad. Given the circumstances, it is especially important that you:

- pay attention to any correspondence and follow any guidance from your host institution/ program. Those entities generally have the best resources and systems in place to support you during your time abroad. They have the most current and reliable information about what's going on locally.
- know that your health, safety, and wellness is your host institution/ program's utmost priority. WashU works with trusted partner institutions/ programs.
- monitor changes that may affect your planned travel outside of your host city, either within or outside of your host country. As the COVID-19 outbreak has developed, some countries 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 consult with your host institution/ program before departing on non-affiliated travel.
- make sure your trip, current or planned, is registered in the university's travel registry, [MyTrips](#). Doing so ensures that you receive the most up-to-date alerts regarding COVID-19 from International SOS and lets the university know where you are if conditions change. Travelers can also check in to their new location using the [International SOS Assistance app](#).

Due to local ordinances, governmental guidance, and internal policies, it is possible that your host institution/ program may have to significantly alter, or in some cases suspend or cancel, your original academic plans. WashU will work closely with partner institutions/ programs to support your completion of a semester of academic credit, as possible.

The university continues to vigilantly follow the activity and its impacts through professional intelligence resources such as the U.S. Department of State, the CDC, International SOS, and partner institutions.

WashU places the highest priority on our travelers' safety and security. Please contact your study abroad advisor or itoc@wustl.edu with any additional WashU-specific questions. Questions related to health or healthcare should be directed to medical professionals.