



AMERICAN  
COLLEGE  
HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION

## ACHA COVID-19 Update: February 27, 2020

*These updates have been provided by ACHA's COVID-19 Task Force. Please forward this message to others on campus who may benefit. Non-members can subscribe to receive these and other messages [here](#). We will continue to update the [COVID-19 webpage](#) with important alerts and resources.*

### **CDC Raises South Korea Travel Advisory to Level 3**

With more than 800 cases of COVID-19 in South Korea, CDC has raised the [Travel Advisory to Level 3](#), advising all Americans to avoid non-essential travel there. Universities should review their travel policies, study abroad programs, and clinical materials, including triage protocols and screening questions.

### **Italy at Travel Advisory Level 2**

The surge of COVID-19 cases through sustained community spread in Italy has led to CDC's assignment of a [Level 2 Travel Advisory to the country](#). Though not prohibiting travel to Italy at this time, CDC recommends older adults and those with chronic illnesses including immunodeficiencies consider postponing their travel. All infection prevention measures including respiratory and hand hygiene should be followed.

### **CDC COVID-19 Information for Travelers**

The CDC has provided [general travel information](#) with regard to COVID-19 considerations, including many additional more specific links.

### **Spring Break**

With spring break around the corner, students, faculty, and staff may be planning or have already made travel arrangements for destinations far and wide. For those who have booked a cruise, proceed with caution. Once embarking, you are subject to local or maritime authorities regarding disembarkation, quarantine, and isolation in the event of suspected COVID-19 infection. Both the State Department and the CDC advise reconsidering plans if cruising to or within Asia.

#### **Resources:**

[CDC Traveler's Health: Cruise Ship Travel in Asia](#)

[Information for Cruise Ship Passengers from U.S. Department of State Website for Travelers](#)

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All travelers should thoroughly research their destinations and consult with their SHS Travel Clinic and medical or nursing providers on medical concerns. Continue to stay tuned to State Department, CDC, and WHO travel advisories.

More international students may remain on campus during spring break because of travel restrictions and may need housing, food services, medical and mental health resources, transportation, and other services that may be limited or suspended when the campus is on break. The college or university should be proactive in ensuring these services are available and accessible for these students.

## Preparation and Planning

Though there has been **no community transmission of COVID-19 in the U.S.**, this is a rapidly evolving situation with new cases emerging worldwide. Community transmission has occurred in Hong Kong, Iran, and Italy. Sustained community transmission means people have been infected without known source or contact, and the spread is ongoing.

Campuses should use this time to review emergency planning documents, business continuity plans, communication processes, leave policies, and other key documents.

The COVID-19 Task Force is developing guidelines for preparing the university for COVID-19 to assist in planning and preparation.

## Persistence of Coronaviruses on Inanimate Surfaces and Their Inactivation with Biocidal Agents

[This article](#), published in the *Journal of Hospital Infection*, is the result of a literature review of 22 studies looking at various coronavirus strains, its persistence on inanimate surfaces, and its inactivation with biocidal agents. The authors conclude coronavirus can survive up to nine days on a hard surface at room temperature. However, there is insufficient data on SARS CoV-2, the novel coronavirus responsible for COVID-19 infection.

WHO experts state the virus survives for approximately 30 minutes on hard surfaces. Utilizing current WHO recommendations on disinfection and their literature review, the authors advise disinfecting hard surfaces with 62-71% ethanol or 0.1% sodium hypochlorite (bleach). Because it is flammable, use ethanol on small surfaces such as stethoscopes or the rubber stoppers on vials. Use bleach to disinfect large surfaces like countertops.

Current understanding of the primary transmission of SARS CoV-2 is through respiratory droplets and contaminated hands. Research to better understand the role of transmission through contact with inanimate hard surfaces continues.

## Online COVID-19 Course from WHO

WHO is providing a free, short [online course](#): Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

See all updates here: [https://www.acha.org/ACHA/Resources/Topics/COVID-19\\_Update.aspx](https://www.acha.org/ACHA/Resources/Topics/COVID-19_Update.aspx)

ACHA COVID-19 Page: <https://www.acha.org/COVID-19>