

Dear students,

Welcome back to campus, Knights! You may have seen my update last week regarding the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak in the U.S. and abroad. We continue to monitor the impact of this virus, which has been detected in about 90 locations globally, including the United States. As of today, March 10, there have been eight confirmed cases in Iowa, and 12 in Colorado (where students are studying at Wartburg West); however, the risk level in Iowa, Colorado, and the U.S. remains low.

The Cabinet, in consultation with health officials and Stephanie Newsom, the chair of the response team, is coordinating our preparation for and response to an outbreak in this area. We will share additional information with you as it becomes available and provide you with action steps when necessary.

Here are some things to be aware of:

- **Symptoms:** Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms (fever, cough, and shortness of breath) to severe illness or death. These symptoms may appear two to 14 days after exposure. If you develop any of these symptoms and believe you may have been in a location with known COVID-19 cases or in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed, please contact the on-campus Noah Health Clinic at 319-352-8436 or Waverly Health Center at 319-352-4120 to determine the desired course of action. If self-quarantine or other actions are deemed medically necessary, the college is poised to work with you and local health officials to ensure your safety and the safety of others.
- **Off-campus study:** The spread of COVID-19 may impact international and off-campus study, including Tour Week and May Term. A group of faculty and staff are monitoring the advisories and will talk in the coming days about how to proceed, with a focus on health and safety, academic ramifications, and financial risk. If you are enrolled in an off-campus May Term course and have questions, please contact Kathleen Sihler, Wartburg's study away coordinator, at Kathleen.sihler@wartburg.com.
- **Prevention:** As with any communicable disease, the CDC is recommending frequent hand washing and covering coughs to prevent the spread of this virus. Additional recommendations can be found [here](#).
- **Travel advisories:** If you are traveling in the near future, check the CDC and U.S. Department of State websites for up-to-date information about the spread of the virus.

We recommend that all nonessential travel to CDC Warning Level 3 countries be cancelled or rescheduled for a later date.

I know the uncertainty surrounding this outbreak can be concerning for many. If you are feeling overwhelmed, please reach out to Counseling Services on the third floor of Vogel Library or at 319-352-8596. Thank you all for your patience as we work through this. If you have questions that are not addressed above, please contact me at Daniel.kittle@wartburg.edu.

Dan Kittle

Vice President of Student Life and Dean of Students