

Dear students,

I know most of you are home for Winter Break (or traveling with a service trip or athletic team), but I wanted you to know that back in Waverly we are closely monitoring the COVID-19 outbreak in the U.S. and abroad. COVID-19, or the coronavirus, has been detected in 60 countries, including the United States, but there are no confirmed cases in Iowa or Colorado, where we have students studying in Denver.

A Communicable Disease Response Team has been assembled to coordinate the college's preparation for and its response to a possible outbreak in Waverly or on campus. This team also has been charged with keeping the campus community up-to-date with its work and providing action steps when needed.

Here are just a few things to keep in mind at this time:

- Travel advisories: If you are traveling this week, please be sure to 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.
- Off-campus study: The spread of COVID-19 may impact international and off-campus study, including Tour Week and May Term. A special group of faculty and staff are monitoring travel advisories but have not made any decisions regarding these courses. 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. She is out of the country until March 11 but will be checking emails periodically. If any changes are deemed necessary, students will be notified immediately.
- 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.](#)

If you have any other questions about how the college is preparing for the possibility of an outbreak in our area, please contact me at daniel.kittle@wartburg.edu. I hope you enjoy the rest of your break, and I look forward to seeing you all when classes resume March 9.

Dan Kittle

Vice President of Student Life and Dean of Students