



Office of the Chancellor
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

March 2, 2020

Dear Presidents and CEOs,

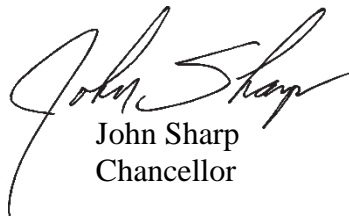
We have no greater responsibility than to promote the health and safety of students, faculty and staff of The Texas A&M University System. We also are responsible for promoting public health, especially during this period of global uncertainty surrounding the outbreak of COVID-19. Prior to tomorrow's call, I wanted to share the System's thoughts on how best to protect our students, faculty and staff.

Therefore, starting immediately, The Texas A&M University System will:

1. Strongly discourage all foreign travel by TAMUS students, faculty and staff while the outbreak of COVID-19 remains a dynamically changing and uncertain situation.
2. Prohibit payment for TAMUS-sponsored travel to all countries identified as Level 1 or greater risk by the CDC Health Notice Warning system. The only exception is for "mission-critical" personnel working on the response to COVID-19.
3. Encourage all students, faculty and staff to return from all Level 1 or higher risk countries as soon as can be practically arranged.
4. Direct students, faculty and staff to report all **personal** international travel to the university if they have traveled to a Level 1 or greater risk country.
5. Require students, faculty and staff traveling to countries with risk levels of 2 and 3 to self-isolate for a 14-day period before returning to school or work. Monitoring/isolation should follow the latest CDC guidelines, which currently suggest at least 14 days without symptoms.
6. Require students to self-monitor and isolate at a parent's residence whenever practical. Students should contact their university if a parental-residence option is impractical.
7. Direct students with symptoms not to just show up at campus health centers but call ahead so medical personnel can be prepared or can direct the students to local health authorities.

8. Reimburse students for expenses associated with cancelled school-sponsored trips.
9. Create a System-level reserve to assist universities with extraordinary costs associated with the crisis response.
10. Continue to raise public awareness and encourage people to keep themselves safe by washing their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, covering their coughs, avoid touching their eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands, and staying home when ill.
11. Provide information on System websites and on regular social media updates.
12. Create an expert medical response team.
13. Work with other university systems to ensure a coordinated, statewide effort.
14. Will coordinate weekly or biweekly conference calls to share current information from the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

In addition to these steps, the School of Public Health and the AgriLife Extension system are working to create and distribute important information about COVID-19 and the spread of infectious diseases.



John Sharp
Chancellor