

Subject: Precautionary measures being implemented due to a novel (new) coronavirus outbreak in China

Members of the University community,

Due to the outbreak of a new strain of the coronavirus officials in China have restricted travel to and from 17 cities in the Province of Hubei and banned travel to the province.

The Government of Canada has issued a level 2 travel advisory for travel to China which recommends travellers take enhanced precautions when visiting the country. The Centre for Disease Control has issued a level 3 warning which recommends travellers avoid all nonessential travel to Wuhan, China.

At this time the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is indicating the overall risk to Canadian travellers and to Canada is low but they are continuing to monitor the situation as it is evolving rapidly.

As a precautionary measure the University is taking a proactive approach to ensure faculty, staff and students travelling to and from China are aware of, and take steps to mitigate, their risk of contracting or spreading the virus.

Effective immediately the University has cancelled all centrally organized and funded trips to travel to China scheduled in the next three months (all of the individuals involved in these trips have been advised in personal emails).

Also effective immediately all travel to China (including previously approved travel that has not yet occurred) by faculty, researchers, staff and students that the University is funding or sponsoring will require the Dean's approval of the Travel Authorization Request Form and must include a risk mitigation plan, which can be found at: <https://www.uregina.ca/hr/hsw/Coronavirus/index.html>, that addresses the precautions identified by the Government of Canada. These precautions can be found at: <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories/pneumonia-china>.

Personal travel is at the discretion of the individual, but you are strongly encouraged to pay attention to the travel advisories.

In addition, a bulletin has been prepared which will be provided to anyone who is arriving from China to the University. The bulletin provides information on activities that may have increased their risk of contracting the virus and steps they should take if they have symptoms potentially indicative of the disease. This bulletin is available on the HS&W website at:

<https://www.uregina.ca/hr/hsw/Coronavirus/Information-sheet-for-students,-faculty,-and-staff-arriving-from-China.pdf>

We appreciate your cooperation in implementing these processes.

An emergency operations group has been formed at the U of R which is continuing to monitor the situation and will provide updates as required.

Sincerely,

Thomas Chase, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Kathleen McNutt, Vice-President (Research)
Dave Button, Vice-President (Administration)