

Coronavirus Update

Members of the University community,

Due to the ongoing outbreak of the novel coronavirus, the Government of Canada has advised Canadians anywhere in China to leave the country by commercial means unless it is essential for them to be there.

One travel advisory has been updated and another one kept in place. These two advisory levels are official Government of Canada Travel Advisories and are issued when the safety and security of Canadians travelling or living in the country may be compromised:

- ***Avoid non-essential travel to China:*** *There are specific safety and security concerns that could put you at risk. You should reconsider your need to travel to the country, territory or region. If you are already in the country, territory or region, you should reconsider whether or not you really need to be there. If not, you should consider leaving while it is still safe to do so. It is up to you to decide what “non-essential travel” means, based on family or business requirements, knowledge of or familiarity with a country, territory or region, and other factors.*
- ***Avoid all travel to Hubei province:*** *There is an extreme risk to your personal safety and security. You should not travel to this country, territory or region. If you are already in the country, territory or region, you should consider leaving if it is safe to do so.*

As a result of these new advisories, all travel by faculty, researchers and students to China that is sponsored or funded by the University, including research grants, is cancelled until these advisories are lifted.

This travel ban is in effect immediately and supersedes the previous travel approval process emailed to the campus community on January 27, 2020.

The cancellation of all centrally-organized and funded travel to China also announced on January 27, 2020, remains in effect.

The Government of Canada is repatriating Canadians from Wuhan, who will be quarantined for 14 days, to monitor for illness.

It is also advising anyone who has travelled to Hubei province in the last 14 days, to limit contact with others for a total of 14 days from the date they left Hubei. This means self-isolate and stay at home. In addition, they are to contact the local public health authority in their province or territory within 24 hours of arriving in Canada.

All travellers from the rest of mainland China are advised to monitor themselves for symptoms and to contact the local public health authority in their province or territory if they feel sick. Should a fever, cough, difficulty breathing or any other symptom arise within 14 days after returning to Canada, they should seek medical attention immediately and inform their health care provider or local health authority about symptoms and travel history.

The Government of Canada has also implemented screening measures at the three international airports in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver where travellers from China typically enter Canada.

Travellers, other than those from Hubei province, who clear the health screening are asked to monitor their health for 14 days and are allowed to access the country without restrictions as with any other traveller.

There is no quarantine or isolation requirement for travellers who have not been to the Province of Hubei in the last 14 days, and the University of Regina has not, and cannot, implement such a requirement on people coming to our campus from China.

Much misinformation and inappropriate commentary is circulating on social media regarding the outbreak of this new coronavirus. The University reminds every one of our [Respectful University Policy](#): The University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment in which members of the University community can live, work and learn in a collegial climate of mutual respect, free of harassment and discrimination.

The University of Regina appreciates and welcomes students, employees and visitors from around the world, including those from China. For anyone coming to the University from China, an Information Sheet for students, faculty and staff arriving from China (available in English and Mandarin), is located on the Health, Safety & Wellness website at: <https://www.uregina.ca/hr/hsw/Coronavirus/index.html>

As noted in previous correspondence this is cold and flu season, which have similar symptoms to the coronavirus. Saskatchewan Health advises people who are sick to stay home to rest and recover and to follow the advice of their medical practitioner in order to prevent the spread of their illness.

The emergency operations group convened in response to this coronavirus outbreak continues to monitor the situation and will provide updates as required. All University of Regina communications regarding this matter – including links to public health and government sites - are available on the website noted above.

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