

Members of the University community,

Faculty, staff and students have raised a number of questions related to the COVID-19 outbreak and actions the University of Regina is taking to address this issue.

The Health, Safety and Wellness (HS&W) COVID-19/novel coronavirus update web page now includes Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) [<https://www.uregina.ca/hr/hsw/Coronavirus/index.html>]. We strongly encourage everyone to refer to these FAQs and to the HS&W web page for the latest communication on COVID-19.

Examples of some of these FAQs are:

1) An instructor/student/staff member who has recently been travelling is ill but is still teaching/attending classes/working. Why is the University allowing people who are ill to come to the University? How do you know they are not infecting people with COVID-19 or other diseases?

As of March 6, 2020 there are no quarantine or isolation requirements for travellers who have not been to the Province of Hubei or in Iran in the last 14 days. The University of Regina does not have the authority, and it is not currently recommended by health officials to implement such a requirement on people coming to our campus from China, other than from Hubei and Iran, or from other areas where the COVID-19 virus has been identified.

It is important to note that there have been no cases of COVID-19 confirmed in Saskatchewan and the Public Health Agency of Canada continues to advise us that the risk to Canadians remains low. People are much more likely to have a cold or flu than COVID-19, which have similar respiratory disease symptoms (cough, fever, difficulty breathing).

To help prevent the spread of disease the University has included general advice reminding people to follow appropriate health precautions: wash hands often; cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze with a tissue or the crease of your elbow; if you become sick avoid contact with others and seek advice from a health care professional.

Supervisors and faculty are strongly encouraged to recommend any employee/student with flu-like symptoms stay home.

2) Is the U of R distributing masks for people to wear to prevent the spread of infection on our campuses?

The U of R is not distributing masks as medical authorities are not recommending their use at this time. Some members of our community may opt to wear a mask for a variety of reasons and it is their right to do so.

3) Is it safe to receive a letter or package from China, Iran, northern Italy, etc.?

Yes, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), people receiving packages from places with high incident levels of COVID-19 are not at risk of contracting the 2019 Novel Coronavirus. From previous analysis, the WHO has determined that coronaviruses do not survive long on objects, such as letters or packages.

4) I am a student scheduled to go on an exchange to a country currently affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. What are my options if the exchange program is postponed or cancelled?

UR International is working with host institutions and associated agencies to ensure that any exchanges or student mobility programs that are postponed can be rescheduled. Students participating in Study Abroad & Global Mobility programs are advised to contact UR International, their Faculty, and supervisor to discuss postponing their exchange/mobility programs (such as, Study Tour, Global Internship, Visiting Graduate Research/Undergraduate Research Program, etc.) or determine if there are any impacts on their program. If any programs are cancelled, the University will work with students on a case-by-case basis to determine how best to support them.

Please refer colleagues and students to the FAQs and to the HS&W web page, which can also be accessed by the COVID-19/Novel Coronavirus Latest Update side button on the University website's main page.

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