

From: [Office of the MSU Provost](#)
Bcc: msu-faculty-staff@sympa.montana.edu; [Mokwa, Robert](#); [Becker, Michael](#)
Subject: Update on the impact of COVID-19 to university-affiliated and sponsored travel
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MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost

Dear MSU Faculty, Staff and Students,

I am writing to provide you an update on the impact of the corona virus disease (COVID-19) with regard to university-affiliated and sponsored travel.

Montana State University is closely monitoring COVID-19 news and travel restrictions in real-time with information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization and U.S. State Department, among others. Advisories and restrictions can change rapidly, and MSU remains vigilant.

Montana State University, through our Office of International Programs (OIP), is monitoring MSU-affiliated travelers currently abroad. That includes travelers in some countries where the highest incidences of COVID-19 cases have been reported, namely Italy, Japan and South Korea. OIP is in communication with those MSU travelers and is helping them stay informed and safe.

Similar to most U.S. universities, MSU students are participating in a variety of international study abroad, student exchange and faculty-led programs. The majority of countries that are hosting our students are under CDC Level 1 designation, which is comparable to the United States. OIP will continue to evaluate advisories and restrictions associated with all of our ongoing institutionally sponsored international programs as well as upcoming programs that include international travel.

We have also received guidance from the Montana University System, which has banned university-affiliated and -sponsored travel systemwide to areas and countries under a Level 4 "do not travel" advisory, as designated by the State Department, such as China. Travel to places that are under Level 2 or 3 advisories must be reported to the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education for evaluation on a case-by-case basis.

It is important to note that any travel undertaken at this time poses a level of risk for exposure to COVID-19. Additionally, travel advisories and restrictions can change without warning. Countries open to travel this week may have different situations in the future. Potential travelers must weigh that risk individually, and we encourage you to use resources such as those linked above to inform yourselves.

Montana State University is watching the COVID-19 situation closely, balancing the need for preparation with appropriate concern. Our information page about

COVID-19 is available at montana.edu/coronavirus. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,



Robert Mokwa
Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs
Montana State University

Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Montana Hall | P.O. Box 172560 | Bozeman, MT 59717-2560
www.montana.edu | provost@montana.edu | 406-994-4371