

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Frequently Asked Questions

General/National Guidance and Information

Q. What do I need to know about the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

A: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have provided this Fact Sheet on COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>

Q. What should I do if I am sick and diagnosed with COVID-19 or suspect I am infected with the virus that causes COVID-19?

A: The CDC has provided this Fact Sheet outlining steps to help prevent the disease from spreading to people:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/sick-with-2019-nCoV-fact-sheet.pdf>

Q. What can students, faculty and staff do to protect themselves and each other?

A: We encourage students, faculty and staff to practice respiratory (coughing and sneezing) etiquette and hand hygiene. Those who feel sick are recommended to stay home until they are free of fever, signs of a fever, and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants). Employees should notify their supervisor and stay home if they are sick, and seek medical attention depending on the severity of the symptoms.

Minnesota State-Specific Guidance and Information

Q. When did the international travel suspension for Minnesota State-related business travel for students, faculty, or staff become effective?

A: The suspension became effective Friday, February 28, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. central standard time and impacted all international Minnesota State-related business travel for students, faculty, or staff at that time. There is no specific end date for the suspension, however, the suspension policy is being reviewed on a recurring basis.

Q. What countries or locations are not included under the chancellor's suspension of international travel?

A: The international travel suspension does not limit Minnesota State-related travel to the U.S. Territories including Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, U. S. Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico. Given its proximity, Minnesota State-related travel to Canada will be reviewed on a case by case basis. There is no limit on domestic travel to include travel to Hawaii or Alaska. The suspension policy will be reviewed and updated on an as needed basis.

Q. How long is the suspension of international travel?

A: While the international travel suspension policy is being reviewed on an as needed basis, there is no specific end date for the suspension. Those with Minnesota State-related international travel planned for the future should be in contact with their carriers and destination or hosts on cancellation or change polices and alternatives or options, given the circumstances.

Q. How does the suspension impact those traveling to Minnesota State institutions from international locations (Examples: guest speakers, candidates, potential students, family members)?

A: There is no limit or restriction on those traveling from international locations to Minnesota State colleges, universities, or the Minnesota State system office. They will be subject to the protocols in place by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) depending on where they are coming from.

Q. What if I paid a service charge to my college/university or to a third party for a study abroad experience that was canceled?

A: Minnesota State is working in close partnership with its 37 colleges and universities with the goal of easing potential impact on students. Individuals who prepaid for their international trip should contact their college/university representative to seek guidance.