



Office of the President

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

March 6, 2020

Dear parents and family,

I want to assure you that Northern Arizona University continues to closely monitor the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in coordination with federal, state, and local health and emergency preparedness organizations, and I'd like to share information about what we are doing to keep all of our students and our campus community safe.

While there is no imminent threat and the risk remains low in Arizona, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has indicated that the prudent action at this time is to prepare for the potential spread of COVID-19. We are working closely with the State of Arizona and the Coconino County Health Department to monitor the virus and take appropriate action.

This week, NAU gathered a panel of experts from the university and local health organizations to share the most current information regarding the disease, discuss protocols, and address questions at this semester's Campus Forum, held Tuesday and **broadcast live**. Another forum was held at **NAU's Community Breakfast**, a gathering of NAU, local community leaders, and business community members.

NAU has ramped up communications campus wide, including cautionary messaging regarding spring break travel. NAU strongly recommends that members of our Lumberjack family not travel to areas with active community transmission of COVID-19 and/or in countries with current travel restrictions, including Level 1: Hong Kong, Level 2: Japan, and Level 3: China, South Korea, Italy, and Iran.

NAU is following new national travel and self-isolation guidelines. The CDC recommends a 14-day self-isolation period for all travelers who return from

Level 2 or 3 countries. Faculty, staff, students, and others returning from Level 2 or 3 countries should self-isolate at their home or an off-campus residence for 14 days and monitor their symptoms before returning to campus. If symptoms occur, individuals should seek medical attention.

As we work to protect the well-being of our Lumberjack community, we are committed to providing timely and factual information on an ongoing basis. NAU also launched an internal COVID-19 taskforce to address preparedness. The taskforce is led by our director of Emergency Management, Robert Church, and includes representatives from functional areas across NAU. Efforts include launching a webpage to serve as a centralized resource for all information and communications related to COVID-19 at nau.edu/coronavirus.

It is of utmost importance to us that all members of our campus community know what actions we are taking and what you can personally do to help slow the spread of this disease. We are doing everything we can to keep our campus community informed and safe, including sharing messages in public areas, residence halls, dining areas, and classrooms.

We encourage you to visit the [NAU coronavirus webpage](#) for updates regarding public health, student services, on-campus activities, events, and classes—including travel.

Once again, I want to assure you that the health and well-being of our Lumberjack community is our utmost concern, and we are committed to sharing information and making adjustments that public health professionals recommend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rita". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot at the end.

Rita Hartung Cheng
President