



# Office of the President

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

March 6, 2020

Dear Lumberjack community,

In keeping with our commitment to frequent communication and to the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff, I would like to share important information related to travel (including spring break), and the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Three cases have been identified in Arizona, including a case in which the individual is no longer infected, according to the Arizona Department of Health Services. None are in Flagstaff. Northern Arizona University continues to closely monitor the disease outbreak in coordination with federal, state, and local health and emergency preparedness organizations. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a Travel Warning-Level 3: Avoid Nonessential Travel for all travel to China, South Korea, Italy, and Iran. The U.S. Department of State recommends reconsidering travel to these countries. Following these travel advisories, NAU has required all students, faculty, and staff who are abroad on university travel in China, South Korea, and Italy to return to the U.S. as quickly and safely as possible.

Travel to China, South Korea, Italy, and Iran on university funds is not permitted at this time, or for the foreseeable future until further advised. With spring break around the corner, 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.

NAU has launched an internal COVID-19 taskforce to address preparedness across functional areas at NAU, including course delivery, housing, dining, health services, facilities, and operations. NAU is continuing to provide the latest information and communications related to COVID-19 at [nau.edu/coronavirus](https://nau.edu/coronavirus).

NAU's Center for International Education (CIE) is actively monitoring the global situation with national and regional governmental agencies and will continue to provide appropriate direction to NAU students, faculty, and staff who are abroad based on travel advisories and updates from the CDC and the U.S. State Department.

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.

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

As you prepare to have an enjoyable spring break, stay informed and mindful of your health and the health of those around you so that we can all return as a healthy community.

We will continue gathering and sharing information, making adjustments that public health professionals recommend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rita", written in a cursive style.

**Rita Hartung Cheng**  
President