



February 26, 2020

Dear Administration, Staff, Students, and Faculty:

The purpose of this letter is to help inform administrators, teachers and staff about current knowledge and guidance around the role of the campus in responding to the novel (new) coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak, first identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019.

In the United States, there are common coronaviruses that circulate every year, which usually cause upper respiratory tract illnesses much like the common cold. The overall risk of 2019nCoV to the general public in the U.S. and schools is low, and symptoms of coronavirus are much like that of a common cold, and include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Coronavirus symptoms may appear with 2-14 days after exposure.

Novel coronavirus spreads like other respiratory illnesses such as the flu or a common cold, primarily through coughing or sneezing by those who already have symptoms. The best way to prevent infection with any respiratory virus is to use the **same preventive strategies** used during a normal cold and flu season: **get a flu shot every year, wash hands regularly with warm water and soap, cover coughs and sneezes or cough into the elbow, and stay home when experiencing symptoms of illness. All surfaces should be routinely cleaned with disinfectants to prevent spread of germs.**

Students, faculty or staff whose family members have traveled from China in the last 14 days (and are being monitored for symptoms) **do not need to be excluded from school.** We understand that school staff, parents and the community are concerned about the health and safety of our students and staff; however, it is important to understand the risk of disease transmission and not impose unnecessary restrictions on persons who do not present an immediate health risk. Anyone who is experiencing symptoms or that has known exposure, is asked to remain home or in isolation until all symptoms have resolved, including fever for at least 24 hours and including cough.

Any new information about Novel Coronavirus can be found at the DCD website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>, and from DPH at <https://dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus>.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have, and thank you each for your diligence in keeping our campuses healthy.

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