

International Travel Update: March 11, 2020

Announcing Immediate Suspension of All College-Sponsored International Travel

We are continuing to monitor the COVID-19 situation closely. Based on new information about the global spread of the virus and guidance from public health experts, effective today, Saint Mary's College is suspending all College-sponsored international travel to any country through June 15, 2020.

This suspension includes international study abroad programs and travel that is related to teaching, research or grant activity, internships, conferences and presentations, and performances. At this point, all such domestic programs are currently moving forward as planned.

This difficult decision was made in the interest of the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff and to reduce the possible spread of infection to other areas. In light of the continuing spread of the novel coronavirus and the dynamic nature of the global public health situation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has strongly encouraged higher education institutions to suspend international travel.

Travel Disruption

- If you had plans to participate in a College-sponsored international travel program, please contact the Center for International programs. We recognize that this suspension is a significant decision, and the College is actively working with relevant departments to help affected students continue their academic progress and to help faculty and staff fulfill contractual obligations to complete projects involving international travel.

Students, faculty, and staff who are already abroad on university-sponsored travel are not being asked to return at this time unless they are in countries that are designated by the CDC as "Level 3 – Avoid Nonessential Travel" due to coronavirus. Those currently overseas are reminded to follow all CDC guidelines upon returning to the United States and to campus.

In accordance with CDC guidelines, those returning from countries with a CDC level 3 travel advisory for coronavirus must self-quarantine for 14 days and be symptom-free before returning to campus. Those traveling from a level 2 country are advised that 14-day self-quarantine is recommended as well. Travelers should also note that the possibility exists that a country experiencing an outbreak could suspend travel in and out of the country and could result in travelers being stranded.

Personal Travel

- Saint Mary's College strongly recommends that all members of our community reconsider any personal international travel plans over the coming weeks. Students, faculty, and staff should be aware of the associated risk of international travel including possible disruptions to international travel and health care as well as potential disruptions to reentry to the United States. Based on

the rapidly evolving international travel guidance, return travel to the United States might be interrupted by federal or state restrictions or conditions abroad.

Domestic Travel

- College-sponsored domestic travel will commence as usual. However, we encourage everyone in our community – faculty, staff, and students – to **weigh whether any domestic travel between now and June 15 is essential** and to explore options to join meetings or events remotely, especially in the growing number of areas with high infection rates.

Until June 15, we strongly encourage all students, faculty, and staff to register ALL travel, personal and college-sponsored, international and domestic through Terra Dotta. This applies to both personal and College-sponsored travel, international and domestic. If a new COVID-19 outbreak occurs in a place where our community members have been traveling, having this confidential information will help our public health team take effective action. If you are unfamiliar with Terra Dotta, the staff at the Center for International Programs can provide additional information on this system.

For additional information about Coronavirus (COVID-19), please see:

- [CDC: About Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [CDC: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in the U.S.](#)
- [CDC: Global Map with Confirmed COVID-19 Cases](#)

- Campus health updates are available at SMC's [Health and Wellness Center](#).

Visit SMC's Responding to The Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update Page