

## International Travel Update

### March 4, 2020 International Travel Update

On March 4, the [government of Italy](#) announced it was closing all schools and universities nationwide until March 15 to contain the coronavirus outbreak.

On February 28th, the United States Department of State raised the travel advisory for Italy to a Level 3: Reconsider Travel due to an increase in the number of new cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), particularly in northern Italy. Similarly, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reissued its travel notice for Italy, encouraging all travelers to avoid nonessential travel to the country until further notice. In light of these developments, the Center for International Programs has suspended all Spring, Summer and Fall 2020 programs in Italy.

**At this time, Saint Mary College will not sponsor travel by students, faculty or staff to any Alert Level 3 or 4 countries, which currently includes China, South Korea, Venezuela, Iran, and Italy.**

On March 2, SAI Programs suspended all study abroad programs in Italy and notified students that they are to vacate student housing by March 12. SAI is working with our host institution partners in Italy to coordinate the academic program offerings so students are able to complete their courses remotely and to provide assistance to students making travel arrangements to return to the United States.

Students returning from study abroad programs should consult with academic and staff support personnel at their host institutions and should contact Susie Miller Reid, Senior International Officer, Saint Mary's College Center for International Programs at 925-631-4316 or [msm9@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:msm9@stmarys-ca.edu).

Saint Mary's College is in contact with public health agencies and based on their advice, the College has established the following protocol for those traveling from, or in contact with persons who recently returned from, any of these Alert Level 3 or 4 countries.

- For all Saint Mary's community members, if you have returned from travel to China, South Korea, Italy or Iran or have a family member or housemate who has returned from these countries in the last 14 days, we ask that you [self-isolate](#) until 14 days have passed with no symptoms since the return date so as not to increase potential exposure of the coronavirus to the larger campus community.
- If you develop symptoms at any point, you should contact your medical provider for further guidance given your exposure history and specific symptoms.
- If you have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 within the 14 days of self-isolation, you must be free of fever (i.e. fever is 100.4° F [37.8° C] or greater using an oral

thermometer) for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine before returning to campus and regular activity.

- We encourage employees in self-isolation to call their supervisors to explore the ability to work from home.
- For students currently enrolled in classes at Saint Mary's please contact Vice Provost for Student Academics Megan Mustain at [vpstudentacademics@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:vpstudentacademics@stmarys-ca.edu) or (925) 631-4040 to identify how to continue studies while in self-isolation at home.

To learn more about how the coronavirus has impacted Italy, please reference credible sources like the ones below:

- [CDC: Coronavirus in Italy](#)
- [U.S. State Department Travel Advisory - Italy](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

**[Visit SMC's Responding To The Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update Page](#)**