



## Dear Grand Canyon University Family:

As news of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) continues to impact communities around the globe, we want to inform you that Grand Canyon University is monitoring the spread of this infectious disease closely and has in place an Emergency Preparedness Task Force that meets regularly to discuss situations such as this.

This is a team of leaders with expertise on how to respond to emergencies and includes GCU's Director of Health Services, Emergency Preparedness Manager, Dean of Students, Director of Public Safety, Director of Disability Services, Vice President of Human Resources, Assistant General Counsel, Director of Communications and members of the academic leadership team.

It is important to note that **there are no current confirmed cases of COVID-19 at GCU or in Maricopa County** and officials assure us that the risk in our community, at this time, is low.

The GCU Task Force's mission is to have in place protocols should an emergency health situation arise that could affect our student and employee populations while providing up-to-date information to our stakeholders. To that end, a page on the University's website – [gcu.edu](http://gcu.edu) – is being created that will include outgoing communications, important links to the [Centers for Disease Control](https://www.cdc.gov) and [Maricopa County Department of Public Health](https://www.maricopa.gov), Frequently Asked Questions and other resources. The web page should be activated soon.

The Task Force is working in conjunction with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health to ensure we are sharing the most accurate and up-to-date information.

The best way to prevent illness during flu season is to take every-day preventative actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if your hands are visibly dirty.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work and school.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Because of the uncertainties of how COVID-19 is spread, students, faculty and staff are encouraged to evaluate their travel plans in the immediate future – including Spring Break – especially if you plan to travel to international locations. In addition to the risks of contracting the virus, travelers need to be aware that restrictions could be imposed by local governments and health authorities, including being quarantined or physically isolated from others for extended periods of time. For the most recent travel advisory from CDC, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>.

No students participating in GCU's Study Abroad program have tested positive for the virus, but campus locations in China and Italy -- where the CDC has issued its most severe threat warnings – have closed. The CDC and U.S. State Department have issued a series of travel warnings for those locations as well as South Korea and Iran.

GCU is being proactive to ensure we are doing everything to protect the health and safety of our students, staff and faculty. We will continue to update the campus community as more information becomes available.

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