Campus Colleagues,

The news is filled with international stories about the impact of the COVID-19 virus. I’m writing to update you on planning that is happening on our campus. At MSUM, we are working closely with the Minnesota State system office to monitor the developing situation related to COVID-19 and to take steps necessary to protect the health and safety of our students, our faculty, and our staff.

**International travel**
On Feb. 28, Minnesota State Chancellor Malhotra suspended all international travel related to Minnesota State including study abroad programs and any other activities involving faculty, staff, and students. MSUM staff are working with our students who are affected by the travel suspension to help them navigate the change.

**Our campus**
Minnesota State is cooperating with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). At this time, MDH assesses the risk of becoming sick with COVID-19, including for people in Minnesota schools, as low, and is not recommending that events or extracurricular activities be cancelled. To date, there have been no positive cases of COVID-19 reported at any Minnesota State college or university or at the system office.

More information from MDH about the impact of COVID-19 for schools, colleges and universities is available on the [Minnesota Department of Health website](https://www.mndepartmentofhealth.gov/)

**Continuity of Instruction**
An emergency closing of the University, campus closure and/or suspension of classroom meetings is not a suspension of instruction. Faculty duty days remain in effect and scheduled instructional duty days remain intact, though the means of delivery may change. The work you’re doing to ensure continuity of instruction in case of a flood will also be required in the case of a potential closure due to COVID-19. Please refer to the [Continuity of Instruction guide on the Academic Affairs website](https://www.mnstate.edu/academicaffairs/)

**What you can do**
Anyone in the U.S. who has not traveled to China or been in contact with someone confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 in the last 14 days is at low risk of becoming sick with the virus.

You can help prevent the spread of the virus by:
- Practicing respiratory (coughing and sneezing) etiquette and washing your hands
- Using appropriate leave to stay at home when you’re sick

I remind you to be respectful of all members of our campus community. No actions or language should be directed against anyone based on race, ethnicity, or religion based on the origins of COVID-19.

We will continue to keep you updated as we monitor the impact of COVID-19.

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