



**TO: STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS (AND THEIR PARENTS)**  
**SUBJECT: COVID-19 (FORMERLY THE 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS) UPDATE**  
**FROM: HUEY SHI CHEW, *OFFICE OF GLOBAL EDUCATION***  
**FEB. 27, 2020**

Dear Students,

In light of changing developments, we wanted to update you on the University's response to COVID-19 (Formerly the 2019 Novel Coronavirus). New cases of COVID-19 are being reported in countries worldwide. A number of universities are cancelling study abroad programs, especially in Italy. The University is supporting any Scranton students whose semesters are being disrupted by these cancellations.

We want to advise all students studying abroad to pay close attention to notices from the U.S. government and the government of the country in which you are studying. The University's Office of Global Education is available to help should you wish to return to the United States before the conclusion of your planned study abroad.

**Depending on circumstances related to the virus at that time, the University may require, as a precaution, that you wait a full 14 days after returning to the United States and that you have a notice from a healthcare professional that you are free of flu-like symptoms.** We will work with your dean to limit the impact on your academic progress as much as possible.

You can find additional information from the following websites: [U.S. Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) Travel Advisory Website](#), [U.S. Department of State, International SOS COVID-19 Information](#). Restrictions can change without warning, and these changes could require a U.S.-based quarantine or even affect the timing of your reentry to the country.

The CDC recently elevated South Korea to a Level 3 (avoid non-essential travel) and elevated advisory levels for Italy and Japan to Level 2 (practice enhanced precautions). **The University has decided to prohibit university-sponsored or related international travel to any countries designated by the CDC as a Level 3 – currently only China and South Korea. The University may prohibit sponsored or related travel to Level 2 or other countries depending on the circumstances.**

For your personal health, the best advice remains to follow CDC recommendations to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Get a flu vaccine.

If you have questions, then we encourage you to write to [studyabroad@scranton.edu](mailto:studyabroad@scranton.edu). Please be aware that because of the time difference, our response to your email may be delayed.

Sincerely,

Huey Shi Chew

For the parent version:

Dear Parent of Students Studying Abroad,

The following communication was sent to your student today. We are sharing this with you for your information.

Sincerely,

Huey Shi Chew