

COVID-19 Case Study Materials, MC 221 (Politics of International Economic Relations), Spring 2020

In class, we will discuss the readings below in small groups, and then share ideas together as a full class. Instead of taking notes on each individual article, I recommend that you prepare by taking brief notes on your initial answers to the following questions.

Questions for Class Discussions

- Why has the disease spread so actively?
- Why are vaccines and treatments still unavailable?
- How has the pandemic been limited or exacerbated by liberalized trade, migration, aid, investment, and exchange of ideas?
 - o How are these causes of pandemic explained by the IPE schools of thought we have studied? Which one(s) provide the best explanation of this process?
 - o Clearly, to some degree, these impacts were traded off against each other. For instance, the virus was transmitted by the movement of people across borders, but such movements also facilitate the introduction of needed health workers and protective equipment. What interventions would help to balance such impacts?
 - o What actions should governments have taken to limit the spread of COVID-19, and why? In particular, what are the advantages and disadvantages of border closings?
 - o What policy intervention would each IPE theoretical approach prescribe?
- Why have countries responded differently to stop the spread of the virus (different policies, different timing)?
 - o What factors (government type, level of development, ideology, etc.) have resulted in these different approaches?
- How should we measure the effectiveness of government, inter-governmental, and non-governmental responses to the crisis?
 - o What were the various stakeholders' goals, and how would we know if they have been achieved?
 - o How do these goals affect the selected responses?
 - o What lessons can we draw from these outcomes in terms of best policies and timing of responses?
- What is the role of international organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), in responding to such a crisis?
 - o What can international cooperation provide for developed countries? For developing countries?
 - How likely is such cooperation to respond to these needs?
 - o What role should IMF and other lenders play in this response?
 - o What factors led the WHO to declare the situation as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)? And why did it make that decision when it did? Did this declaration have any impact on crisis response?
 - o What other international efforts were tried and why were they helpful or not?
 - o Why does it make sense (or not) to coordinate the response through an entity such as WHO? If WHO is not ideal, what other actors could be more effective?
 - o Why did WHO and other global actors' interventions achieve different levels of success?

- What could WHO have done better in its response to the COVID-19 crisis? What can it still do to help?
- How would the IPE schools of thought understand WHO's successes and failures?
- What lessons should the international community take to prepare for future public health crises? What have they done so far to adapt to this situation?
 - How have past lessons informed global responses to the spread of COVID-19?
 - To what extent are these lessons applicable to addressing COVID-19? What factors must be present in order for these lessons to be relevant?
 - What barriers limited the ability to learn from past experiences such as response to pandemic flus, Ebola, and Zika?

Reading Materials: There is a lot here, so I have *starred the most important items to be sure you focus on those first

Basic Public Health and Disease Information

*Dara Grennan, "What Is a Pandemic?" *JAMA* 321(9):910

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2726986>

World Health Organization, "Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 50," March 10, 2020 (see file) [more daily reports at <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>]

COVID-19 Dashboard by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University (JHU), <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

Other data: <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>

From email to Sparrow medical staff, Feb 28, 2020:

["Get the facts COVID-19 Video \(5-minutes\):](#) This is a basic level review that will help us find the words to use when explaining COVID-19 to family and patients

[How Does the Coronavirus Compare With the Flu?](#) This is a great article from the New York Times that is very educational and informative. A must read for everyone!

[Coronavirus outbreak \(COVID-19\) explained through 3D Medical Animation](#) (6-minutes): This 3D college-level medical animation explains the story up to a couple weeks ago. It covers what is a pandemic, rates of infection and tips to protect against infections. It also delves into the biology and mechanism of action that coronavirus uses to infect and damage human cells."

Origins, Transboundary Movements, and the Spread of COVID-19

*FT Visual & Data Journalism Team, "Coronavirus tracked: the latest figures as the pandemic spreads," *Financial Times* (updated frequently) <https://www.ft.com/coronavirus-latest>

David L. Swerdlow and Lyn Finelli, "Preparation for Possible Sustained Transmission of 2019 Novel Coronavirus: Lessons From Previous Epidemics," *Journal of the American Medical Association* 323(12):1129-1130 (February 11, 2020) <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2761285>

*Maddie Sofia, "Why Is The Coronavirus So Good At Spreading?," *NPR Short Wave Podcast* March 24, 2020 <https://www.npr.org/transcripts/819137104> [listening recommended if possible]

*Hannah Beech, "Coronavirus Finds Fuel in a World of Migrants," *New York Times* April 10, 2020 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/10/world/asia/coronavirus-migrants.html>

Sigal Samuel, "The coronavirus likely came from China's wet markets. They're reopening anyway." *Vox* April 15, 2020 <https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/2020/4/15/21219222/coronavirus-china-ban-wet-markets-reopening>

Impacts

[for reference, I have pasted below some of the early emails about coronavirus from MSU administration, as well as one from Sparrow hospital administration]

*Emily Feng, "How COVID-19 Has Affected Medical Care For Non-Coronavirus Patients," *NPR Weekend Edition Saturday* February 22, 2020 <https://www.npr.org/2020/02/22/808404816/how-covid-19-has-affected-medical-care-for-non-coronavirus-patients>

*Marc Silver, "'The Dread Of Responsibility' — Paul Farmer On The Pandemic And Poor Countries," *NPR Goats and Soda* March 24, 2020 <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/03/24/820968801/the-dread-of-responsibility-paul-farmer-on-the-pandemic-and-poor-countries>

*Thomas Reardon, Marc F. Bellemare and David Zilberman, "How COVID-19 may disrupt food supply chains in developing countries," *International Food Policy Research Institute Blog* April 2, 2020 <https://www.ifpri.org/blog/how-covid-19-may-disrupt-food-supply-chains-developing-countries>

*Lisa Friedman, "New Research Links Air Pollution to Higher Coronavirus Death Rates," *New York Times* April 14, 2020 (update) <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/07/climate/air-pollution-coronavirus-covid.html>

*Ben Hubbard, "Coronavirus Fears Terrify and Impoverish Migrants in the Persian Gulf," *New York Times* April 13, 2020 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/13/world/middleeast/persian-gulf-migrants-coronavirus.html>

*Amanda Taub, "A New Covid-19 Crisis: Domestic Abuse Rises Worldwide," *New York Times* April 14, 2020 (update) <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/06/world/coronavirus-domestic-violence.html>

Oxfam, "What are African journalists, scholars and activists saying about Covid-19?" *From Poverty to Power Blog* April 16, 2020 <https://oxfamblogs.org/fp2p/what-are-african-journalists-scholars-and-activists-saying-about-covid-19/>

Global Economic Problems Resulting from COVID-19

Peter S. Goodman, "China's Coronavirus Has Revived Global Economic Fears," *New York Times* Jan. 27, 2020 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/27/business/coronavirus-china-economic-impact.html>

*Steven Erlanger, "Spread of Virus Could Hasten the Great Coming Apart of Globalization," *New York Times* Feb. 25, 2020 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/25/world/europe/coronavirus-globalization-backlash.html>

Jeanna Smialek and Jim Tankersley, "Fed Makes Emergency Rate Cut, but Markets Continue Tumbling," *New York Times* March 6, 2020 (update) <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/03/business/economy/fed-rate-cut.html>

*Max Fisher and Emma Bubola, "As Coronavirus Deepens Inequality, Inequality Worsens Its Spread," *New York Times* March 16, 2020 (update) <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/15/world/europe/coronavirus-inequality.html>

*Trevor Noah, "[Interview with] Gita Gopinath - The Economic Aftermath of Coronavirus," *The Daily Social Distancing Show* via YouTube April 8, 2020 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_K3dMpdqpc&app=desktop

*Ana Swanson, "Global Trade Sputters, Leaving Too Much Here, Too Little There," *New York Times* April 10, 2020 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/10/business/economy/global-trade-shortages-coronavirus.html>

*International Monetary Fund, "World Economic Outlook, April 2020: Chapter 1," <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2020/04/14/weo-april-2020> [glance at data tables; full report is optional reading]

Policy Responses across the World

Lawrence O. Gostin and James G. Hodge, Jr., "US Emergency Legal Responses to Novel Coronavirus Balancing Public Health and Civil Liberties," *Journal of the American Medical Association* 323(12):1131-1132 (February 11, 2020)

*Kara Gavin, "Flattening the Curve for COVID-19: What Does It Mean and How Can You Help?," University of Michigan Health Mar. 11, 2020 <https://healthblog.uofmhealth.org/wellness-prevention/flattening-curve-for-covid-19-what-does-it-mean-and-how-can-you-help>

*Nurith Aizenman, "China Halts Transportation Out Of Wuhan To Contain Coronavirus. Could It Backfire?," *NPR All Things Considered* January 23, 2020 <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/01/23/798949862/china-halts-transportation-out-of-wuhan-to-contain-coronavirus-could-it-backfire>

*Marco Werman, "Democracy versus dictatorship in an epidemic," *Public Radio International The World* March 10, 2020 <https://www.pri.org/file/2020-03-10/democracy-versus-dictatorship-epidemic>

*Jason Beaubien, "Singapore Wins Praise For Its COVID-19 Strategy. The U.S. Does Not," *NPR Morning Edition* March 12, 2020 <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/03/12/814522489/singapore-wins-praise-for-its-covid-19-strategy-the-u-s-does-not>

Ellen Barry, "'It's Totally Ad Hoc': Why America's Virus Response Looks Like a Patchwork," *New York Times* March 15, 2020 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/15/us/united-states-coronavirus-response.html>

*Katrin Bennhold, "A German Exception? Why the Country's Coronavirus Death Rate Is Low," *New York Times* April 6, 2020 (update) <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/04/world/europe/germany-coronavirus-death-rate.html>

*David M. Hartley and Eli N. Perencevich, "Editorial: Public Health Interventions for COVID-19: Emerging Evidence and Implications for an Evolving Public Health Crisis," *JAMA* April 10, 2020 <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2764656>

*Laurel Wamsley, "In Europe, Cautious Steps Away From Coronavirus And Toward Normalcy," *NPR* April 14, 2020 <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/04/14/834428062/in-europe-cautious-steps-away-from-coronavirus-and-toward-normalcy>

Efforts to Find Medical Interventions/Solutions

*Josh Nathan-Kazis, "Big Pharma Is Pushing Harder on Coronavirus. GlaxoSmithKline Discloses Effort With Chinese Biotech." *Barron's* Feb. 24, 2020 <https://www.barrons.com/articles/big-pharma-progress-coronavirus-vaccine-drugs-51582554473>

*Sarah Gonzalez, "Planet Money: Why The Market For Emergency Vaccines Is Like No Other," *NPR Morning Edition* March 13, 2020 <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/13/815307821/planet-money-why-the-market-for-emergency-vaccines-is-like-no-other> [more in-depth version (not required) at: <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/06/812943907/episode-977-wheres-the-vaccine>]

*Karl Zimmer, "Hundreds of Scientists Scramble to Find a Coronavirus Treatment," *New York Times* March 17, 2020 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/17/science/coronavirus-treatment.html>

David E. Sanger, David D. Kirkpatrick, Sui-Lee Wee and Katrin Bennhold, "Search for Coronavirus Vaccine Becomes a Global Competition," *New York Times* March 19, 2020 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/19/us/politics/coronavirus-vaccine-competition.html>

*Miriam Jordan and Annie Correal, "Foreign Doctors Could Help Fight Coronavirus. But U.S. Blocks Many." *New York Times* April 14, 2020 (update) <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/13/us/coronavirus-foreign-doctors-nurses-visas.html?smid=em-share>

*Lisa Du, "70 Coronavirus Vaccines Are Under Development, With 3 in Human Trials, WHO Says," *TIME Magazine* April 13, 2020 <https://time.com/5819887/coronavirus-vaccines-development-who/>

International Cooperation, Competition, and Organizational Responses

*WHO, IHR Procedures concerning public health emergencies of international concern (PHEIC), <http://www.who.int/ihr/procedures/pheic/en/>

*Steven Lee Myers and Sui-Lee Wee, "As Fears of a Pandemic Mount, W.H.O. Says World Is Not Ready," *New York Times* Feb. 24, 2020 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/24/world/asia/china-coronavirus-world-health-organization.html>

Kelsey Piper, "The WHO just declared the coronavirus a pandemic. Here's what that means." Vox Mar 11, 2020 <https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/2020/3/11/21175061/who-declares-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic>

*Faye Leone, "COVID-19 Pandemic Disrupts UN Meeting Plans Around the World," 19 March 2020 *SDG Knowledge Hub*. <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/covid-19-pandemic-disrupts-un-meeting-plans-around-the-world/>

*email from New Zealand government official (see below)

Choe Sang-Hun, "Trump Writes to Kim Jong-un Offering Help in Virus Fight, North Korea Says," *New York Times* March 21, 2020 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/21/world/asia/coronavirus-north-korea-trump-kim.html>

*Steven Erlanger, "Europe Fumbled Coronavirus at First. Can It Manage the Pandemic Now?" *New York Times* March 27, 2020 (update) <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/26/world/europe/coronavirus-eu.html> [shared earlier when we discussed European integration in class]

*Ana Swanson, "White House Airlifts Medical Supplies From China in Coronavirus Fight," *New York Times* March 29, 2020 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/29/business/economy/coronavirus-china-supplies.html>

*Michael D. Shear, Abby Goodnough, Sheila Kaplan, Sheri Fink, Katie Thomas and Noah Weiland, "The Lost Month: How a Failure to Test Blinded the U.S. to Covid-19," *New York Times* April 1, 2020 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/28/us/testing-coronavirus-pandemic.html> [focus on section entitled "A Startling Setback"]

Rick Gladstone, "U.N. Security Council 'Missing In Action' in Coronavirus Fight," *New York Times* April 2, 2020 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/02/world/americas/coronavirus-united-nations-guterres.html>

*Jason Douglas, "As Countries Bar Medical Exports, Some Suggest Bans May Backfire," *Wall Street Journal* April 4, 2020 <https://www.wsj.com/articles/as-countries-bar-medical-exports-some-suggest-bans-may-backfire-11585992600> [If you have trouble accessing WSJ.com, similar reporting is available here: <https://www.npr.org/2020/04/04/827321294/german-french-officials-accuse-u-s-of-diverting-supplies>]

*Camila Domonoske, "Borders Didn't Stop The Pandemic. But They Might Block The Trade Of Medical Goods," NPR April 8, 2020 <https://www.npr.org/2020/04/08/828789521/borders-didnt-stop-the-pandemic-but-they-might-block-the-trade-of-medical-goods>

Colin Drury, "Coronavirus: India lifts export ban on unproven drug after Trump threatens 'retaliation'," *The Independent* 7 April 2020 <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/coronavirus-india-drug-export-ban-trump-modi-hydroxychloroquine-a9451581.html>

*Jane Bradley, "In Scramble for Coronavirus Supplies, Rich Countries Push Poor Aside," *New York Times* April 9, 2020 <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/09/world/coronavirus-equipment-rich-poor.html>

*Matt Apuzzo and David D. Kirkpatrick, "Covid-19 Changed How the World Does Science, Together," *New York Times* April 14, 2020 (update) <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/01/world/europe/coronavirus-science-research-cooperation.html>

*Laurel Wamsley, "Trump Says He Will Halt WHO Funding, Pending Review," *NPR* April 14, 2020 <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/04/14/834588506/trump-says-he-will-halt-who-funding-pending-review>

*Selam Gebrekidan, "The World Has a Plan to Fight Coronavirus. Most Countries Are Not Using it." *New York Times* April 15, 2020 (update) <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/12/world/coronavirus-world-health-organization.html>

Lessons from History?

*Bridget M. Kuehn, "Lessons Learned From SARS Outbreak Prompt Rapid Response to New Coronavirus," *JAMA* 309(15):1576-1577 (April 17, **2013**) <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/1679396>

Laurie Garrett, "How to Shut Down a Country and Kill a Disease," *Foreign Policy*, October 23, 2014. <http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/10/23/how-to-shut-down-a-country-and-kill-a-disease/>

*Sheri Fink and Pam Belluck, "One Year Later, Ebola Outbreak Offers Lessons for Next Epidemic," *New York Times*, 23 March 2015. <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/23/world/one-year-later-ebola-outbreak-offers-lessons-for-next-epidemic.html>

*WHO, "WHO leadership statement on the Ebola response and WHO reforms," 16 April 2015 [revised 20 April]. <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/joint-statement-ebola/en/>

*Sheri Fink, "W.H.O. Promises Reform After Criticism Over Ebola Response," *New York Times*, 20 April 2015. [noting deleted text from above statement] <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/21/world/africa/who-promises-reform-after-criticism-over-ebola-response.html>

Donald G. McNeil Jr., "U.S. Becomes More Vulnerable to Tropical Diseases Like Zika," Jan. 4, 2016 *New York Times* <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/05/health/us-becomes-more-vulnerable-to-tropical-diseases-like-zika.html>

*Nina Storchlic and Riley D. Champine, "How some cities 'flattened the curve' during the 1918 flu pandemic," *National Geographic* March 27, 2020 <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/2020/03/how-cities-flattened-curve-1918-spanish-flu-pandemic-coronavirus/>

Salmaan Keshavjee, Aaron Shakow, Tom Nicholson, "Opinion: The Way The U.S. Beat TB Could Be A Boon In Battling Coronavirus," *NPR* April 1, 2020 <https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/04/01/825221305/opinion-the-way-the-u-s-beat-tb-could-be-a-boon-in-battling-coronavirus>

Longer Pieces if You Have Time

Osterholm, Michael T. 2007. "Unprepared for a Pandemic." *Foreign Affairs* 86 (2):47-57.

Council on Foreign Relations conference call on responding to the ebola crisis, 31 October 2014. http://www.cfr.org/diseases-infectious/responding-ebola-crisis/p33707?cid=nlc-educators-academic-bulletin-resources-for-the-academic-community-link4-20141103&sp_mid=47325129&sp_rid=YXhIbHJvZDNaXN1LmVkdQS2

Tine Hanrieder, "The path-dependent design of international organizations: Federalism in the World Health Organization," *European Journal of International Relations*, March 2015, 21(1): 215-239.

Science Magazine Podcast about ebola response, 12 September 2014,

http://c778316.r16.cf2.rackcdn.com/SciencePodcast_140912.mp3

Nurith Aizenman, "As Ebola Cases Dwindle, West Africa Turns To Economic Recovery," *NPR Goats & Soda*, April 17, 2015, <http://www.npr.org/blogs/goatsandsoda/2015/04/17/400387093/as-ebola-cases-dwindle-west-africa-turns-to-economic-recovery>

Terry Gross, "Fighting COVID-19 Is Like 'Whack-A-Mole,' Says Writer Who Warned Of A Pandemic (Interview with Ed Yong)," *NPR Fresh Air* April 1, 2020 <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/04/01/825179922/fighting-covid-19-is-like-whack-a-mole-says-writer-who-warned-of-pandemic>

Email from a New Zealand government official via professional environmental politics listserve (March 22, 2020):

“To answer your second question, I think it depends on the government department in question. I work for a foreign ministry (NZ), and almost all hands are on deck for COVID-19 response. Most countries are having massive consular emergencies, trying to get nationals back home, responding to questions from in-country non-nationals, navigating all of the border complexities (think of people transiting countries, families with mixed residency status, etc.). I cannot speak for all governments, but here this effort is requiring resource from across the business. This has an impact on all work being done; we have people backfilling, and backfilling the backfilling, but some work is indefinitely postponed. Every govt department will be affected in its own way (sorting economic packages for business; dealing with tourists who are still here; sorting out school policy; ensuring food and other supply chains are stable; etc.).

I work on a multilateral desk (UN relationship management), and BAU [Axelrod note: “business as usual”] has slowed to a trickle. As Pam noted, UN meetings are being scaled down, postponed, or cancelled. Some processes related to those meetings (e.g., informals, regional consultations) are happening, although at a slower pace. Multilaterals are also shifting their focus to COVID-19 matters - how this manifests will vary by each agency.”

Early Responses from MSU and Sparrow Hospital (not required reading)

From: University Physician <HT.umphys@msu.edu>

Date: January 30, 2020 at 2:40:57 PM EST

Subject: Update to campus on coronavirus

Jan. 30, 2020

To: MSU faculty, staff and students

From: **David Weismantel**, M.D., M.S.

University Physician, MSU

Denise B. Maybank, Ph.D.

Vice President and Associate Provost for Student Affairs and Services

Dear Spartan community:

The University Physician and the Office of International Health and Safety at Michigan State University continue to work with our local, state and federal partners in closely monitoring the outbreak of the new coronavirus in China.

It's important to note that there are zero confirmed cases in Michigan and no suspected cases at MSU. Unless you have traveled from China in the past two weeks or have been around someone ill with this new coronavirus, your risk of being exposed is very low.

In response to the outbreak and following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, MSU is strongly encouraging all members of the campus community currently in China on university-sponsored business to return home. The outbreak is having a significant impact on travel to and from China as well as restricting services such as health care, domestic transportation and food service.

Additionally, for the next eight weeks, MSU is suspending all nonessential MSU-sponsored travel to China. The university will continue to welcome and support our students, visitors and scholars from China – they each are essential in the continued fueling of discoveries and scholarship and more importantly, the vibrancy of our Spartan community.

In general, all travelers should continue to practice good hygiene and be prepared for enhanced screening procedures at major airports, which may cause travel delays. Members of the MSU community can always seek travel guidance from the [MSU Travel Clinic](#) if they have specific questions or concerns.

While there are no additional precautions recommended for the campus community at this time, it is important to remember the steps you can take to prevent the spread of any virus, including the flu:

- Wash hands often with soap and water. If not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home while you are sick and avoid close contact with others.
- Cover your mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Clean your doorknobs, light switches and commonly touched areas with disinfectant wipes frequently.

Thank you.

From: University Physician <HT.uphys@msu.edu>
Date: February 20, 2020 at 5:28:31 PM EST
Subject: Update to campus on coronavirus
Reply-To: University Physician <HT.uphys@msu.edu>

Feb. 20, 2020

To: MSU Students, Faculty and Staff

From: David Weismantel, M.D., M.S.
University Physician, MSU

Denise B. Maybank, Ph.D.
Vice President and Associate Provost for Student Affairs and Services

Dear Spartan community:

The university has assembled a task force that meets regularly to monitor the spread of the new coronavirus from its place of origin in Wuhan, China. The task force now has recommended all university-sponsored travel to China, Singapore and Hong Kong be suspended for students, faculty and staff through July 31, 2020. This suspension takes effect today and includes all study abroad programs in those countries.

Additionally, we have heard from members of our community who are concerned about the coronavirus. Please know that we hear your concerns and that your risk of being exposed on campus is extremely low.

There are no confirmed cases today on campus, or even in Michigan. Moreover, it is highly unlikely that any MSU faculty, staff, student, or visitor has recently returned from

China without mandatory quarantine for up to 14 days by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or state health department.

MSU will continue to pay close attention to this developing issue, as we would with any infectious disease, to ensure the safety and welfare of our students, faculty, staff, scholars and visitors. The University Physician and the Office of International Health and Safety at Michigan State University continue to closely monitor the outbreak with the assistance and guidance of local, state and federal partners.

And while MSU leaders remain vigilant in monitoring coronavirus disease 2019, abbreviated COVID-19, remember that there are many international students impacted by this outbreak, with family, friends and loved ones in affected regions. Difficult and stressful times underscore the importance of coming together as Spartans. They provide us an opportunity to support one another, and this outbreak is no different.

As Spartans, we value inclusivity. We welcome students, scholars, faculty and staff from all parts of the world. We take pride in the diverse perspectives that move our community and the world forward. And we will continue to live those values today, tomorrow and into the future.

To keep our campus community informed, we've established a page on our website to provide our community with up-to-date information on the coronavirus and resources to keep ourselves and one another safe. Visit msu.edu/coronavirus to learn more.

Thank you.

Subject: Update on the novel coronavirus

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., President <PresidentStanley@msu.edu> Tue Mar 10, 5:09 PM

Dear Spartans:

As the global epidemic associated with the novel coronavirus continues to rapidly evolve internationally and domestically, I want to reassure our community that we're actively monitoring while preparing our campus to ensure the continued health and safety of all Spartans.

It is OK to be concerned, and it is important to be prepared, but this is not a time for panic. There are many rumors about possible cases in Michigan, but there are no confirmed cases in our state at this time.

A cross-university task force is meeting regularly to share information in real-time, consider any needed changes to best protect our community and address a broad range of contingencies. I am in contact with the task force daily, and I will continue to regularly update the community, through messages and on our [website](#).

MSU preparations

MSU is preparing for a variety of possible scenarios and campus units have plans and resources in place for a potential outbreak. The university is in constant contact with the Ingham County Health Department and continues to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including:

- Creating opportunities to move from in-person instruction to alternative delivery methods, where feasible.
- Identifying ways to facilitate self-isolation for any affected student.
- Sanitizing impacted areas and providing dining options in a way that reduces potential spread.
- Switching out cleaning supplies with stronger germicidal disinfectant when cleaning bathrooms and other common surfaces.
- Posting signage with key tips to keep yourself healthy during this time, including washing hands more frequently and for at least 20 seconds, practicing social distancing if you feel sick and covering your coughs and sneezes.

We want you to know that we are taking this seriously. The health, safety and well-being of all our Spartan family is our top priority.

Continuity of teaching and learning

MSU has been preparing for pivoting the campus to online learning should that decision be required. The resource to support educators in moving courses to online instruction is keep-teaching.msu.edu.

This website will grow over time as we discover additional needs and create content to address them.

We also are developing the following services for educators:

- How to move classes from in-person to online and other alternative delivery options.
- IT support to address specific needs and connect educators with instructional design or technology help.
- Best practices for online instructions and class discussions.
- FAQs

A second website is under development for all other employees at MSU that will support business units in remote workplace policies, tips and resources. We plan to have more information to share in the coming days.

Travel

We already have suspended university-related travel to level-three countries (as designated by the CDC). Now, effective immediately, all university-sponsored international travel is suspended. This includes new travel as well as any currently booked trips between now and April 20. If you are currently in an international location

not impacted by a CDC advisory, you are not required to return home. We plan to reevaluate these guidelines and share updates as more information becomes available.

We are also suspending non-essential domestic travel until April 20. There will be waivers available, and each situation will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by college and major administrative units.

I realize these restrictions may be disruptive for some. But the safety of our campus community is our top priority. Your cooperation helps to ensure an appropriate response across our institution to this rapidly changing situation.

Returning from spring break

Many of you have returned to campus this week from spring break travels. As we've said previously, if you traveled to a high-risk area for the novel coronavirus, we expect that you are following CDC and U.S. Border Patrol guidelines for self-isolation for 14 days. We prefer that students complete any self-isolation at their permanent homes, but the university is prepared to assist those who do not have that option. Please contact MSU Live On at 517-884-1783 to discuss available options.

In closing

Students can contact Olin Health Center's 24-hour nurse line at 517-353-5557 if they have health-related concerns. Faculty and staff with health concerns should contact their primary physicians.

If you haven't done so already, I urge you to update your contact information in [MSUALERT](#) to receive important alert notifications.

As always, the university will continue to provide real-time updates through our website, msu.edu/coronavirus. You can also call our toll-free information line at 888-353-1294.

This is a challenging time for our community, the nation and the world as we respond to novel coronavirus and the uncertainty surrounding it. We will do our best to stay on top of this quickly evolving situation and to communicate with you regularly and fully as conditions change.

We are grateful to all of you for your understanding and flexibility, and your commitment to the well-being of our community. We remain confident that we will navigate this difficult and uncertain period together.

Sincerely,

President Samuel L. Stanley, Jr., M.D.