

**From:** [UofL Update.Service Account](#)  
**To:** [UofL Update.Service Account](#)  
**Subject:** From the Provost: Update on UofL and coronavirus concerns  
**Date:** Friday, February 28, 2020 1:02:54 PM

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UofL Family,

As concerns about COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) continue to grow, I want to share with you several ways in which the university is responding to current information about the virus and how we are preparing for potential effects on our campuses.

**First, I am happy to inform you that at this time there have been no documented cases of COVID-19 at UofL or in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.** Two members of the UofL community who had arrived from China in early January are healthy and back at work.

Experts from our Department of Environmental Health and Safety, School of Public Health and Information Sciences, Campus Health Services, International Travel and other departments are meeting weekly and sharing information with my office. The group met just yesterday and has reported the following:

- Our [Campus Health Services website](#) has been updated with links to the CDC site, which has the most comprehensive information on COVID-19, including the latest announcements on its spread as well as details on symptoms, testing and prevention.
- The university has updated its [international travel policy](#) to reflect concerns about [travel to China and other countries with active COVID-19 outbreaks](#).
- UofL officials will participate in a tabletop exercise in the next month or so to help identify and address any concerns in our preparedness to respond to cases of COVID-19.

While it is still uncertain if or when COVID-19 will reach our community, faculty should remember that extended closures, for any reason, require that instruction continues via electronic means. Please see the [Continuity of Instruction](#) website for more detail.

Finally, I want to remind you that the CDC offers several simple suggestions to lower your risk of contracting the novel coronavirus or other respiratory diseases. These include:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- 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 using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- 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 hands are visibly dirty.

**Again, we have not experienced any cases of COVID-19.** We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as we continue to prepare for any issues that may arise.

Beth A. Boehm

Executive Vice President and University Provost