Dear Students,

Given the rapid pace of change of the worldwide novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, the University at Albany is taking steps to address safety and potential future travel issues for all UAlbany spring study abroad programs in highly affected areas. As such, we have strongly recommended that all students participating in UAlbany study abroad programs in China, Italy, Japan and South Korea return to the United States as soon as possible.

While the University at Albany has provided recommendations to spring semester students in these highly affected areas, based on the information and advisories available at this time, UAlbany has made the decision not to temporarily or permanently suspend additional programs abroad.

You are currently in a country for which we do not currently have plans to recall students back to the U.S. However, the situation remains fluid and the decision to recommend students return to the U.S. from additional programs or suspend any programs could change depending on the severity and locations of the virus outbreak.

We are committed to the value of study abroad, and would only make the decision to recommend students return to the U.S or suspend a program if we have strong reasons to believe that your safety, or your future ability to return home at the conclusion of your program are in real jeopardy. We would not suspend any program in which the host university is continuing in session, though we may recommend you return home depending on the severity and locations of the virus outbreak. However, we would be required to suspend programs if host institutions discontinue classes.

If you are currently abroad and intend to engage in regional or intra-country travel, please make yourself aware of any local and/or national travel delays or restrictions, particularly in Europe and Asia given the virus’ progress. Further information is available by visiting the U.S. Department of State’s travel advisory, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization and local health ministry websites.

At home and abroad, we also wish to urge you to exercise caution regarding information you may see about COVID-19 on social media, especially as it relates to our campus. As you would with any important matter, please attempt to discern the source of any
information you see before sharing it or making any decisions based on that information. As always, our highest priority is the health and safety of every member of our University community; that is why we are asking you to take all appropriate precautions as we continue to monitor the situation closely, including the following health tips:

- Practice good hand hygiene by washing your hands often and for at least 20 seconds each time.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Keep a reasonable social distance from people in general when possible.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Get vaccinated yearly against seasonal flu.

If you become ill with flu-like symptoms while abroad, please contact your in-country study abroad support staff for further guidance. Students participating in a SUNY study abroad program are automatically enrolled in a United Health Care (UHC) international health insurance plan. UHC provides you with service and protection in the event illness or injury during your study abroad program. If you are in need of non-emergency medical care overseas, contact United Health Care directly via the phone number on the issued ID card (844-249-0748) or email UCH at assistance@uhcglobal.com for 24/7 service and assistance.

Further updates related to the UAlbany community are located on the University’s Risk Management and Student Health Services web pages.