Yesterday evening the U.S. Department of State raised the travel advisory to “Level 4: Do Not Travel” worldwide. Given the rapidly evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, the State University of New York (SUNY), which serves as central administration for the 64-campus SUNY system, is strongly recommending that all students participating in University at Albany study abroad programs return to the United States as soon as possible, even if you signed a waiver to remain abroad.

The safety of our students is our primary concern. These escalations by the U.S. government helped guide our decision to recommend that you return to the U.S. as soon as possible. For those of you who are not UAlbany students, your home study abroad advisor has been notified of this decision. We recommend that you update your return airline ticket as soon as possible as finding flights home from abroad may become more difficult over time. UAlbany will reimburse you for any change fees, with proper receipt. When you have booked your return flight, please provide your flight itinerary to your study abroad advisor Jay Stokes (jstokes@albany.edu) or Carmeisha Huckleby (chuckleby@albany.edu). We are asking that you return to your permanent home, follow the health advice recommended below, and not return to the UAlbany campus at this time. Please adjust your travel plans accordingly. If you believe that it is unadvisable for you to return home for any reason, please contact your study abroad advisor, and we will work with you to devise an alternative plan.

As described in past emails, UAlbany is ready to assist you with available course options at home. While neither your host university nor UAlbany cannot guarantee all necessary courses needed or wanted by returning students this semester, we are already working to identify remote options at your host institution, UAlbany and at other Albany area institutions of higher education.

The University understands this is a difficult situation and we are here to support you throughout this transition. Thank you for your patience and understanding. We will continue to update you regularly as efforts to find academic solutions for impacted students continue.