Dear UAlbany Community,

On Sunday evening, Governor Cuomo confirmed the first case of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in New York, specifically in Manhattan. At the same time, he also reminds us that “…there is no reason for undue anxiety—the general risk remains low in New York.”

We want to reassure you that the University is continuing to monitor developments related to COVID-19 with guidance from our local and state health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and is preparing to respond to any concerns related to the virus as needed. A prior notice to campus on January 28, 2020 included our Health and Counseling Services webpage as means of providing additional COVID-19 related information.

At this point, we have formed multiple cross-functional working groups comprised of departments across the University. Specific actions include:

- Preparation for the return of UAlbany students overseas in specific UAlbany study abroad programs
- Investigation of alternative academic arrangements for students who have to return mid-semester from study abroad programs
- Investigation of alternative academic arrangements in the case of a pandemic in the United States with regard to COVID-19
- Other campus preparations in the case of a pandemic in the United States with regard to COVID-19 such as residential options, health care and staffing shortages
- How best to support our current UAlbany community members being impacted by COVID-19 outbreak overseas
Additionally, the University provost and the deans of the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity; the School of Public Health; and the School of Education invite you to attend *The Emerging Global Epidemic of Novel Coronavirus: What Do We Think? What Do We Know?*, a town hall designed for the campus community on Wednesday, March 4 at 11 a.m. in the Campus Center Ballroom.

Furthermore, we want to make all members of the University community aware that the CDC recently updated its guidance on international travel to avoid all nonessential travel to Italy, Iran and South Korea in addition to its previous recommendation to avoid travel to China. The CDC also urges using caution when traveling to other regions that are experiencing sustained community transmission, which currently includes Japan. If you chose to travel to any of these affected regions, you must contact the Office of Enterprise Risk Management and Compliance at (518) 956-8120 or alippold@albany.edu and will be required to self-isolate for 14 days before coming to any University campus.

As spring break approaches, we encourage you to exercise your best judgement when making travel plans. If you will be traveling, please review the travel recommendations on the University’s [coronavirus information page](#) before departure so that you can prepare and take proper precautions. Travel restrictions may change over the coming weeks and could possibly affect your return to Albany.

Lastly, we remind you to take the following everyday steps to protect your health and the health of others:

- Practice good hand hygiene
- 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 your elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash

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.

To learn more, please [visit our FAQ page](#). For the most up-to-date information regarding COVID-19, including specific travel guidance, please visit the [CDC website](#).

Sincerely,
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