

# OFFICE OF THE **PRESIDENT**



S O U T H E A S T M I S S O U R I S T A T E U N I V E R S I T Y

**Wednesday, January 29, 2020**

Dear Southeast Community,

An outbreak of a respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus has raised concern worldwide. The virus was first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, in China, and has resulted in nearly 6,000 confirmed cases in China and five confirmed cases in the United States.

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in closely monitoring this situation. Please note that no cases have been reported at Southeast Missouri State University, and there are no identified cases in Missouri.

Novel coronavirus symptoms are like those of influenza and include fever, cough, shortness of breath and difficulty breathing. Symptoms can occur two to 14 days after exposure. If you have these symptoms and have traveled to China in the last 14

days or have come into contact with a person being evaluated for the novel coronavirus, I urge you to seek medical attention immediately. Students, faculty and staff should contact their primary care provider or the Campus Health Clinic in Crisp Hall. If you need medical attention, please call ahead before seeking evaluation and provide information about your symptoms and recent travel.

There is no vaccine to prevent the novel coronavirus. To prevent spreading respiratory viruses, the CDC recommends washing your hands frequently or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer; avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands; avoiding close contact with people who are sick; staying home when you are sick; covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in the trash; and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces.

The CDC currently has posted a **Warning Level 3** related to the novel coronavirus and recommends avoiding all nonessential travel to China. In addition, the U.S. Department of State has issued a **Level 3 advisory** to reconsider travel to China. If you must travel, the CDC provides this **guidance**.

Southeast will continue to monitor this public health issue and will keep our campus community informed as necessary. Because it is also flu season, please consider getting a flu shot if you have not already done so. While the flu vaccine will not prevent getting the novel coronavirus, it will help reduce flu-like illnesses on campus. For more information, contact the Campus Health Clinic at (573) 651-2270, your primary care provider or visit the **CDC** or the **Missouri DHSS**.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Carter" or similar, with a horizontal line underneath.



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