



Subject: March 3, 2020 Message for Ithaca College London Center Students

Dear Students and Families,

As you know from other recent correspondence, Ithaca College staff are actively monitoring the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. We are reaching out to provide some relevant updated information that we hope you find helpful in contributing to a safe environment for students studying at our London Center and for the faculty and staff supporting their studies.

College officials have been closely monitoring the situation in each country where coronavirus disease has been reported and where there are currently IC students studying abroad. Both the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of State have updated their assessment of the **coronavirus situation in Italy** and have increased the level associated with their travel health notice and travel advisory, respectively.

HEALTH AND TRAVEL INFORMATION

At this time, the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) has provided the following travel health notice for **Italy**:

Warning Level 3—Avoid Nonessential Travel

- *The CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to Italy.*

In addition, the [U.S. Department of State](#) has provided the following travel advisory for Italy:

Level 3--Reconsider Travel

- *There is an ongoing outbreak of COVID-19 caused by a novel (new) coronavirus in Italy. Many cases of COVID-19 have been associated with travel to or from mainland China or close contact with a travel-related case, but sustained community spread has been reported in Italy. Sustained community spread means that people have been infected with the virus, but how or where they became infected is not known, and the spread is ongoing.*

Level 4 - Do Not Travel to:

- *Lombardy and Veneto due to the level of community transmission of the virus and imposition of local quarantine procedures.*

Given this context, and the fact that we realize some of our students may have independently traveled, prior to this heightened warning level, to Italy, we are reaching out to ensure that you are fully aware of the current risk assessment of Italy by the CDC and the U.S. Department of State.

PLEASE NOTE: Ithaca College London Center students may NOT travel to Italy for the remainder of the semester nor to any other country with a level 3 warning or travel advisory.

LONDON CENTER PROTOCOLS

For the safety of all students, faculty, and staff at the London Center, we are implementing the following protocols, consistent with our expectations at the Ithaca College site in Ithaca, New York.

Students who have traveled to countries with a CDC Warning Level 3 Travel Health Notice, which includes Italy, need to remain isolated in their private housing in London for a minimum of 14 days before returning to the London Center or to return to their permanent family home rather than to our London Center and to complete the remainder of the semester's coursework remotely. Any student returning from a CDC Warning Level 3 country will be required to self-quarantine for a minimum of 14 days after the student was last in any CDC Warning Level 3 countries before being able to return to Ithaca College's London Center campus or the Ithaca College Campus in Ithaca, NY.

In addition, any Ithaca College student studying at the London Center who wishes to return to their family home to complete the remainder of the semester's studies may do so, and we will arrange to offer your coursework remotely.

We are enacting these protocols out of an abundance of caution and care for the wellness of all faculty, staff, and students, including populations that might possess health vulnerabilities.

Self-quarantine means remaining at home, not going to classes or work, limiting time outside of the home, and monitoring your health for at least 14 days after you were last in any CDC Warning Level 3 country. Additional guidance for self-quarantine includes:

- Do not come onto the London Center campus
- Work or study from home, as possible
- Avoid non-essential travel outside of the home
- Do not share cups, utensils, etc.
- Avoid shaking hands, hugging, kissing, etc.
- Avoid close contact (keep more than 6 feet between you and other people)
- Take your temperature twice a day in the morning and evening, not within an hour of eating a meal
- Follow the guidance available at these sites to secure medical assistance if you have any symptoms, such as
 - A temperature reading of 100.4 F or higher
 - Cough
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Any flu-like symptoms
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>
- <https://111.nhs.uk/service/covid-19>

We realize that the expectation for self-quarantine may pose logistical challenges since students studying at the IC London Center contract independently for their housing, and many students share accommodations. Because we do not own or manage your residences, we ask that our students please help one another to achieve the goals of a self-quarantine for individuals who traveled to Italy and are returning to shared, private accommodations.

This might mean creating an isolated space for students who are in self-quarantine to safely self-monitor their symptoms for the 14 days. However, we also recognize that this may not be possible in all situations. Therefore, **students who are unable to self-quarantine in their current housing should contact Thorunn Lonsdale**, Director of the Ithaca College London Center, at tlonsdale@ithaca.edu.

Because the situation with respect to the coronavirus is so fluid, we encourage you to regularly review the latest information from:

- the [CDC](#)
- the [U.S. Department of State](#)
- the [U.S. Embassy's webpage on COVID-19 in Italy](#) and
- the [World Health Organization](#)

ACADEMIC OPTIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

If you would like to voluntarily depart your London Center program, and complete your studies remotely, please reach out to the following individuals as soon as possible:

- Director of the Ithaca College London Center, Thorunn Lonsdale, Ph.D., for information about possibly completing the coursework from a distance at the Center's main number 207-244-4800 or tlonsdale@ithaca.edu; and
- the Ithaca College staff in the Office of International Programs (studyabroad@ithaca.edu or +(1) 607-274-3306) to keep them apprised of your choice and travel plans.

The health and well-being of our students, staff, and faculty are of highest priority to us, and we wish to support you in any ways we reasonably can.

If you have any questions or need to talk, please reach out to your support team in the Office of International Programs (OIP) at studyabroad@ithaca.edu or +(1) 607-274-3306.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tanya Saunders, Assistant Provost, International Programs and Extended Studies
Dr. Jeane Copenhaver-Johnson, Associate Provost for Academic Programs