

February 26, 2020

We understand that some of you are concerned about Coronavirus (COVID-19). At this time, the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) has issued an [Alert - Level 2 Travel Notice](#) for travelers to Italy. The CDC recommends that high-risk travelers take special precautions and consider postponing nonessential travel to Italy. The CDC recommends that all travelers utilize enhanced hygiene protocols, which include:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning.

Because the situation with respect to the virus in Italy is still fluid, we encourage you to remain in close contact with the director of your program in Italy as well as with the Office of International Programs (OIP) regarding updates to this developing situation. Should you have questions or wish to discuss the situation further with OIP, we can be reached at [studyabroad@ithaca.edu](mailto:studyabroad@ithaca.edu) or (607) 274-3306.

As Ithaca College continues to monitor this rapidly developing situation of the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), students who may choose to return early to Ithaca may be asked to voluntarily self-quarantine for an appropriate duration prior to coming onto campus.

Please continue to monitor the news, follow the precautions recommended by your program and the CDC, check your email frequently, and consider your options before making any decision. Please contact your program director or our office should you need assistance or want to talk things through.