

February 24, 2020

During this time of concern regarding COVID-19 (novel Coronavirus), we're writing to provide all students currently in Asia with additional information and reminders. As you progress through your study abroad semester or prepare for travel while abroad, please keep in mind the precautions and recommendations provided by your study abroad programs, and by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Many countries, including the United States, have cases of individuals suffering from COVID-19; therefore, it is imperative that you keep track of what is happening in the news and check with the CDC and the WHO for travel updates. Please follow the recommendations at the links below:

**World Health Organization:**

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/travel-advice>

**Center for Disease Control:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

**Center for Disease Control, specific to Japan:**

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/coronavirus-japan>

**Center for Disease Control, specific to South Korea:**

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/coronavirus-south-korea>

**Singapore and Vietnam:**

From the CDC website: Instances of apparent community spread of COVID-19 have been reported in [Singapore](#) and [Vietnam](#). Community spread means there have been people in both countries who have been infected with the virus, including some who are not sure how or where they became infected. Currently, the CDC is not advising people to change their travel plans to either country.

No matter where you may travel, whether at home or abroad, all travelers should practice the following according to the CDC:

- 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 cleaner.
- Before travel, check with airlines regarding any flight cancellations and/or restrictions on flying.

It's important to continue carefully reading and following any advice provided to you by your study abroad programs, as the situation remains fluid.

Please be sure to stay in touch with your family and friends so they don't worry, and let us know if we can be of help.