



Subject: Message for Study Abroad Students in Italy

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 making an informed decision about next steps.

### **HEALTH AND TRAVEL INFORMATION**

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, including Italy. 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.

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.*

Given this context, and the fact that you traveled to Italy prior to this heightened warning level, 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.

### **CURRENT STATUS OF YOUR PROGRAM IN ITALY**

We understand that your programs in Italy are currently scheduled to offer their courses as planned, though this may change over the course of your semester as conditions in the country evolve.

Because we know plans might change, we are staying in touch with Ithaca College's affiliated partners to learn more about their options for online/distance learning opportunities for students in the event a program must be suspended. If such options are offered, you would hear from the host program and may be connecting with us as well. Because these are not our programs, we

cannot dictate the decisions they will make about their curriculum if situations shift. If the affiliated partner provides an online/distance learning opportunity but requires prior written approval by Ithaca College, we will happily provide such written approval. Please contact the Ithaca College staff in the Office of International Programs ([studyabroad@ithaca.edu](mailto:studyabroad@ithaca.edu)) if you need any assistance with obtaining the College's written approval.

Students in **non-affiliated** programs and on a leave of absence from Ithaca College would, in the event there is a change of circumstance/situation, work directly with their program directors on appropriate plans for course completion and course credit.

Students who are studying remotely, with the consent of the program, but who need support with particular clinical experiences or lessons (or other content that is difficult to deliver remotely) during an interim online-instruction period should also reach out to the Assistant/Associate Dean of their school for collaboration and advice. On a case-by-case basis, we will work individually with students who possess special circumstances, such as health vulnerabilities.

### **ACADEMIC OPTIONS AND IMPLICATIONS**

If you would like to discuss the academic options and implications of a decision to voluntarily depart your program, please reach out to the following individuals as soon as possible:

- your program director at the study abroad site for information about possibly completing the coursework from a distance;
- the Ithaca College staff in the Office of International Programs ([studyabroad@ithaca.edu](mailto:studyabroad@ithaca.edu) or +(1) 607-274-3306) and Student Financial Services ([sfs@ithaca.edu](mailto:sfs@ithaca.edu) or +(1) 607-274-3131) for information about any financial aid implications; and
- the Assistant/Associate Dean of your School within Ithaca College for information about any implications regarding your academic progress.
  - School of Business ([schoolofbusiness@ithaca.edu](mailto:schoolofbusiness@ithaca.edu) or +(1) 607-274-7901)
  - Park School of Communications ([commdeansoffice@ithaca.edu](mailto:commdeansoffice@ithaca.edu) or +(1) 607-274-1021)
  - School of Health Sciences and Human Performance ([hshpdean@ithaca.edu](mailto:hshpdean@ithaca.edu) or +(1) 607-274-3237)
  - School of Humanities and Sciences ([hsdean@ithaca.edu](mailto:hsdean@ithaca.edu) or +(1) 607-274-3102)
  - School of Music ([musicdean@ithaca.edu](mailto:musicdean@ithaca.edu) or +(1) 607-274-3171)

Because every student's academic situation is different, a choice to discontinue coursework may impact your degree progress, and the individuals listed above would be able to offer you the most appropriate information and support.

Because the classes you intend to complete are not Ithaca College courses, we cannot fashion a plan to simply replicate and continue them here at IC or online with our own faculty. However, we will support you in whatever ways we reasonably can.

**Students who choose to return to the United States from countries with a CDC Warning Level 3 Travel Health Notice, which includes Italy, are encouraged to return to their family home rather than to Ithaca, as study abroad students do not have any housing at the Ithaca Campus. 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 the Ithaca campus.**

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 Ithaca 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
- Call for 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

### **AN INFORMED DECISION**

We want you and your family to be able to make an informed decision about whether to remain in Italy for the planned study abroad experience or to return to the United States. This is an important decision for you to make with your family, and we encourage you to do so with the latest information available. We also want you to know that regardless of the decision you make, Ithaca College will continue to monitor the situation and will support you to the best of our ability.

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](#)

U.S. Government Assistance for U.S. Citizens who are in Italy can be requested from the U.S. Embassy in Rome:

- Address:
  - Via Vittorio Veneto, 121
  - 00187 Rome, Italy
- Phone: +(39) 06-4674-1
- Fax: +(39) 06-4674-2244
- Email: [uscitizensrome@state.gov](mailto:uscitizensrome@state.gov)
- Website: <https://it.usembassy.gov/>

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](mailto: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*