

March 13, 2020

Dear Iowa State Community:

With Spring Break nearly underway, I wanted to share additional information about the university's planning and preparedness efforts for the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Iowa State's response team](#) of senior leaders, emergency management experts, and working groups are tracking the [increase in COVID-19 cases across Iowa](#). To date, there are no reported cases of COVID-19 on the Iowa State campus, in Ames, or Story County. But we are preparing for when there are cases in our community. We are taking proactive steps to minimize the risk of infection based on ongoing guidance from the [CDC](#) and Iowa Department of Public Health.

Events canceled, postponed or virtualized

While the university remains open, we are putting practices in place to support [social distancing](#). All Iowa State University events, activities, and exhibitions, on or off campus, must be canceled, postponed, or virtualized, effective Monday, March 16, and continuing through Saturday, April 4, 2020. Third-party events held on campus must also be canceled, postponed, or virtualized, effective Monday, March 16, and continuing through Saturday, April 4, 2020. This period could be extended if conditions warrant, and we encourage any group with an event scheduled after Saturday, April 4, to begin considering alternative plans. If you feel your event, activity, or exhibition should still be held in person, please contact univeventauth@iastate.edu and your request will be reviewed by senior leadership.

We also strongly encourage all university meetings to be virtualized (e.g., Webex, Skype, or webinar), but we recognize that some small in-person meetings are necessary to support the university's daily operations and response to the COVID-19 outbreak. These meetings should be limited to essential university business and include a minimal number of in-person attendees who can practice social distancing (e.g. sitting at least six feet apart). If other attendees are needed, they should join by phone.

Long-term planning

As the COVID-19 pandemic remains a rapidly evolving situation, the university's response team is working with our community partners to plan for various longer-term scenarios such as extending the online instruction period and minimizing university operations. At this time, we are in the planning phase only and will provide timely information as decisions are made. Updated information is also posted on the [campus safety page](#) and FAQs.

Should there be a COVID-19 case reported on campus, Iowa State University will utilize the ISU Alert System to notify campus. Please be sure your contact information is up to date in [AccessPlus](#).

Please know that all of our decisions are made to prioritize the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff; mitigate the impacts on the local health care systems; and minimize the risk of infection on campus and in the community. Our university team is working every day to ensure we are responding effectively to this unprecedented situation.

Stay connected in spite of social distancing

We understand this situation is causing concern, stress, and anxiety. While we practice social distancing, it is more important than ever that we promote other ways of connection and expressions of care and support. Please be sure to reach out and make those important verbal or written connections in place of physical contact, and continue to [reject stigmas](#) associated with this pandemic. If you are in need of additional support, please reach out to any of our [campus resources](#).

Sincerely,

Wendy Wintersteen
President