



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

TO: TSU Community

FROM: Kenneth Huewitt, Acting President

DATE: Monday, March 9, 2020

SUBJECT: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

As we learn more about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and its transmission, including the recent news that multiple cases have been confirmed in the Houston region, I feel it is important to share updates with the TSU community – in hopes that this will decrease the likelihood of its spread.

It is important to note that there have been no cases of COVID-19 among TSU faculty, staff or students, and no known direct exposure within the TSU community to anyone with confirmed Coronavirus. Additionally, all current cases in the Houston area are travel related; there have been no cases of community spread COVID-19 for our area. Nevertheless, the university is taking all necessary precautions and working closely with Harris County Public Health to ensure the campus is safe and well informed.

You may be aware that Rice University, which does have a faculty member who contracted COVID-19, cancelled classes for this week. At this time, we do not feel this action is necessary at TSU. Please rest assured that we are prepared to take whatever action(s) necessary to keep our community safe. That said, there are things that you can do to minimize your risk of exposure. We are asking that all members of our community take [suggested steps](#) to ensure that we all stay as healthy as possible. This includes:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean/disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask:
  - CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
  - Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others.

- 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.

How is TSU responding to this health threat? Our Health Services department, along with key administrators, continue to monitor all CDC and local health agency recommendations for facilities cleaning. Our custodial staff is regularly cleaning highly-touched surfaces across the campus, including restrooms, classrooms, and other high-traffic areas, as well as making hand sanitizer more readily available throughout the campus.

If you feel that you have potentially been exposed, or if you are experiencing [symptoms](#), please contact your physician immediately, or contact [TSU Health Services](#) at 713.313.7173. There is a list of [actions to take](#) if you do exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 or other similar viruses.

Nothing is more important than your safety and security, and I pledge to continue to make this our priority.

As always, GO TIGERS!