



University of Idaho

TO: University of Idaho Students
FROM: Blaine Eckles, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of Students
DATE: March 11, 2020
SUBJECT: Helping You Prepare for Spring Break

Dear Vandals,

As you depart from classes this week for a much-deserved break, there are some things you should keep in mind. COVID-19 (coronavirus) is spreading rapidly in some portions of the country and we all need to be diligent.

Will the University of Idaho be closing?

No. As of this email, no one in Idaho or affiliated with the University of Idaho has been diagnosed with the virus. However, the university is making preparations for possible long-term online delivery and **will deliver all classes electronically as a test Monday and Tuesday, March 23-24**. This two-day test is designed to assist the university in evaluating our capability for online delivery for a longer duration, if needed. You should watch for instructions from your faculty and participate in classes in the manner they describe.

All other institutional offices, including the Library, ISUB and Campus Recreation, will remain open on these days. The residence halls will remain open during Spring Break, should you decide not to travel. Students living in Greek chapter houses should check with their chapter leadership on whether they will remain open during the break.

If you do not have easy access to a computer and would like to check out a Chromebook or iPad prior to leaving for Spring Break, [ITS is prepared to help](#). Please plan the tools and Internet resources needed to participate in classes being delivered online.

Another campus communication will be sent Thursday, March 19, with updates on class delivery after March 24 as we monitor the movement of the virus and its impact on our region. Please check your university email over the break for the latest information on the status of the institution and any changes.

Travel During Spring Break

If you are traveling during Spring Break, you should be aware of the [concern level](#) for areas you will be visiting.

International Travel

The university is recommending against any travel to a country listed as [Level 3](#). Any student traveling to a country on this list will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days upon return. In addition, any travel scheduled to a Level 2 location is strongly discouraged.

Also, be aware the Federal Government may alter re-entry requirements at any time, potentially making return to the United States difficult and lengthy.

Domestic travel is not restricted for any parts of the country. However, be aware some communities are harder hit by COVID-19 than others. Use your best judgement for travel to avoid areas of outbreaks.

How can I protect myself?

[The CDC](#) recommends the following steps to best protect yourself and others:

Clean your hands often

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.

- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Put distance between yourself and others if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for [people who are at higher risk of getting sick](#).

Cover coughs and sneezes

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Stay home if you're sick

- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care. Learn [what to do if you are sick](#).
- Should you exhibit signs of illness, please call a medical professional and follow their advice.

I hope that your Spring Break is restful and relaxing. Be safe and keep checking your university email for the most up-to-date information.

Go Vandals!

Blaine Eckles

Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

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