



COVID-19: CAMPUS UPDATE

COVID-19 (2019 Novel Coronavirus) is the new respiratory virus identified as the cause of the outbreak in China that has now spread to other countries, including the US. People who get sick with COVID-19 – typically 2 to 14 days after exposure – develop mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms including fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.

The spread from person to person is thought to be mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Please take the following precautions:

- If you don't feel well, stay home.
- Wash your hands with soap and water (ideally for at least 20 seconds) on a regular basis.
- If soap and water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Frequently clean and disinfect your space and commonly touched objects and surfaces.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue and then discard the tissue.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

The Illinois Department of Public Health does NOT recommend the use of masks or gloves, cancelling mass gatherings, or cancelling classes.

Currently, the health risk to the general public from COVID-19 remains low, both in the US and in Illinois, but the goal of an ongoing public health response is to detect new cases quickly and prevent community spread, blunting the impact of the virus.

The College will continue to look for guidance from Illinois Department of Public Health and our County Health Departments, and will communicate news about the spread of the virus when needed.