WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV)
- Information, resources, and guidance for SAIC students, faculty, and staff-

What is the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)?

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a virus (more specifically, a coronavirus) identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, China.

Are there any cases of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) on campus?

We are not aware of any cases in the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) community.

SAIC is closely monitoring the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), and we are following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH).

What is SAIC doing to protect the campus community?

SAIC is following guidelines from CDC, World Health Organization, and CDPH on our screening and response protocols. We are working to keep the broader campus informed of risks and what to do if they present with concerns. SAIC is working to ensure prompt identification of anyone who might require evaluation and treatment, and we are able to deploy a campus emergency operations plan in the event of a local outbreak.

What are symptoms of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)?

Symptoms related to this coronavirus strain include fever, cough, or shortness of breath. In severe cases, the infection can cause pneumonia or other complications. CDC believes at this time that symptoms of 2019-nCoV may appear up to 14 days after exposure.

We encourage any student who is not feeling well or who has questions or concerns to contact SAIC Health Services, healthservices@saic.edu or 312.499.4288, or their healthcare provider. Additionally, here is a list of nearby clinics and a 24-hour free nurse advice line available to all students. Staff and faculty are encouraged to reach out to their primary care provider with questions about their health. Make sure to inform your medical provider of any recent travel.

How is this novel coronavirus spread?
Much is unknown about how 2019-nCoV, a new coronavirus, spreads. According to CDC, current knowledge is based on what is known about similar coronaviruses. Spreading from person-to-person can happen among close contacts (about six feet) when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how the flu spreads. It’s currently unclear if a person can get 2019-nCoV by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes.

**What is the risk to me?**

CDC considers this a serious public health threat; however:

“The risk to individuals is dependent on exposure. At this time, some people will have an increased risk of infection, for example healthcare workers caring for 2019-nCoV patients and other close contacts. For the general American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus, the immediate health risk from 2019-nCoV is considered low.” – CDC.gov; January 31, 2020

**What happens if there is a confirmed case on campus?**

If a 2019 N-CoV virus is confirmed on campus, then CDC protocols will be followed. Those who have had close contact with the individual infected will be contacted and monitored by the CDPH. SAIC will support the efforts of CDC and the CDPH.

**What if I have concerns that I’ve been exposed to 2019-nCoV?**

Students can contact SAIC Health Services, healthservices@saic.edu or 312.499.4288, or their healthcare provider. Additionally, here is a list of nearby clinics and a 24-hour free nurse advice line available to all students. Staff and faculty are encouraged to reach out to their primary care provider with questions about their health. Make sure to inform your medical provider of any recent travel.

**What preventive actions can I take at this time?**

The CDPH says that at this time, Chicago students, residents, workers, and visitors do NOT need to change their behavior in any way. As with any virus, CDPH recommends taking the following measures to help prevent the spread of viruses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
- Cover your nose and mouth with tissue when you cough or sneeze; remember to wash your hands afterward
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- If you are sick, stay home from school or work for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs

**Should I attend class?**


The Chicago Department of Public Health says that at this time, Chicago students, residents, workers, and visitors do NOT need to change their behavior in any way, so if you are not ill and do not have symptoms, we recommend going to class and participating in your normal activities.

Symptoms related to this coronavirus strain include fever, cough, or shortness of breath. CDC believes at this time that symptoms of 2019-nCoV may appear up to 14 days after exposure. We encourage any student who is not feeling well or who has questions or concerns to contact SAIC Health Services, healthservices@saic.edu or 312.499.4288, or your healthcare provider.

**Should I wear a mask?**

The Chicago Department of Public Health says that at this time, Chicago students, residents, workers, and visitors do NOT need to change their behavior in any way. Chicago Department of Public Health says, “We are not recommending that those in the community wear masks or gloves or change their daily travel routines.” However, if you typically wear a mask, feel free to continue wearing it.

**Key points from the Centers for Disease Control**

For more information on symptoms, traveling to and from China, available treatments, testing information, and more please visit CDC’s [coronavirus page](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html).

**Where can I find updated information?**

For additional information and updates, please visit:

- Illinois Department of Public Health: [Coronavirus](https://www.idph.gov/)

**Guidance for SAIC faculty.**

Students who miss class because of illness, or who are experiencing elevated levels of anxiety, should receive excused absences. Ask for email notification from those individual students and refer them to SAIC Health Services or their primary healthcare provider. A note from a doctor or SAIC Health Services is not required for an excused absence. Faculty should work with students on an individual basis to help them make up missed class work due to illness. Please reach out to the Office of the Dean of Faculty if you have additional questions.

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