

## OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

February 28, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

We continue to follow developments related to COVID-19 (coronavirus). As you know, the virus has spread outside China, creating public health concerns in some countries where USM institutions host study abroad programs.

After consulting with public health experts and following the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) has decided to pull its students from countries assigned a Warning Level 3 travel advisory status by the CDC. UMCP students in countries assigned Alert Level 2 status are being advised that they will be ordered to return stateside immediately if the country's status changes to Warning Level 3. As of Feb. 26, the CDC has designated China and South Korea at Level 3 status; Iran, Italy, and Japan are designated at Level 2. The explanation of status and list of countries affected are available on the CDC website.

I urge all USM institutions that have students, faculty, or staff abroad to monitor the situation closely and respond in a similar manner.

I understand the substantial implications for students whose study abroad is interrupted for any reason. Therefore, support services should be available for students needing assistance with their return arrangements. Additionally, campuses should work to minimize the effect of such disruption and consider plans to facilitate continuity of study to offset the potential loss of a semester. Such supports might include online coursework or special academic programming for student cohorts. Additionally, recalling students may result in capacity issues related to housing, classes, etc., making it challenging for students to return directly to campus. You'll also have to consider potential financial implications.

Please continue monitoring these events and keep students, faculty, and staff informed about potential changes to campus procedures and the options and services available to them. Thank you for your continued attention to this important issue.



Jay A. Perman  
Chancellor