

From: **Office of the Chancellor, Pima Community College** <[chancellor@pima.edu](mailto:chancellor@pima.edu)>

Date: Tue, Mar 3, 2020 at 9:50 AM

Subject: 2019 Novel Coronavirus Update

To: Pima-All <[Pima-All@pima.edu](mailto:Pima-All@pima.edu)>

Colleagues,

The safety of our students, faculty, and staff is our highest priority as Pima Community College continues to monitor global 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

As of Feb. 26, the Pima County Health Department reported no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the county, and said the public faces a low immediate health risk.

We are scheduling information forums for employees and students. Dates, times and locations will be announced.

We have already taken precautions by restricting international travel until further notice (Canada and Mexico excluded). This decision is in line with the recommendations of the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the issuance of a *Level 4 - Do Not Travel* advisory by the [U.S. Department of State](#). This restriction is similar to actions being taken by other organizations, businesses and educational institutions across the United States.

Domestic travel requests will be reviewed and approved by the executive administrator for each unit. Employees currently scheduled to travel on College business may cancel those plans, if they choose. The College will continue to update everyone on travel policies as the situation evolves.

We do encourage employees who are traveling for vacation, upcoming spring break or other non-college business to observe [State Department](#) travel advisories and notifications and use appropriate caution.

As with other organizations, the College has contingency plans to allow business to continue in the event of a disruption to normal routine.

The [Pima County Health Department](#) has provided the following information relating to group gatherings and daily life:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and local health officials consider the risk for exposure for COVID-19 in Pima County to be low
- The Health Department has strong partnerships with the City of Tucson, the University of Arizona, and local hospitals and urgent care providers that allow us to easily share important information with one another
- The Health Department is working very closely with healthcare and public health partners to be prepared for public health threats like COVID-19 and is prepared to take action on any guidance or instructions provided by our state and federal partners should the need be identified
- There is a moderate/high risk that people in Pima County will get influenza, a common cold, or stomach bug, as we know these are circulating in our community. These are readily spread in large groups of people, no matter where those people are from.

The best protections against COVID-19 are the same actions you should take to prevent other illnesses:

- If you feel ill, stay home
- Cover coughs with a tissue or your upper shirt sleeve, not your hands
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds
- Utilize alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water is unavailable
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Avoid close contact, such as kissing, shaking hands, and sharing cups and eating utensils with others
- Practice good health habits. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food
- If you are experiencing a fever, contact your health provider.

The [Arizona Department of Health Services](#) and the [CDC](#) have detailed information about COVID-19 and proper precautions you can take.

The College has hygiene stations at all of our facilities. If you notice that supplies are low at one of the stations, please contact the Facilities Help Desk at [maintinfo@pima.edu](mailto:maintinfo@pima.edu) or 520-206-2733 or, after hours, 520-206-2700.

Maintaining good mental health and wellbeing is also important. If you need assistance, resources are available through the College's [Employee Assistance Program](#).

We will continue to update employees and students as the situation develops. Updates will be available on Pima.edu, linking from "Good to Know" on the homepage. This is also a good time to remind everyone about the PCC Alert system that sends out critical information during emergencies. To sign up, text the word **alerts** to 79516 or go to [pima.edu/alerts](http://pima.edu/alerts).

In conclusion, I want to underscore that COVID-19 is not specific to any country. It is a global challenge whose presence has been confirmed [on every continent](#) except Antarctica. Stigmas based on nationality only create fear and anger, instead of focusing on preventing and treating the disease itself. Unity of purpose and action is the best defense against this disease.

Lee D. Lambert,  
Chancellor