

Feb. 27, 2020

Dear College of Law Community:

I write to follow up on Chancellor Syverud's recent updates to our Syracuse University Community related to the COVID19 worldwide (coronavirus). The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to update its guidance, and our Chancellor and his team continue to monitor the situation closely and issue appropriate advisories.

Our primary concern remains the safety and well-being of all of our students here in Central New York, in externships in New York City, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and other places and those attending courses online from other parts of the country and as far away as Japan, Germany, and Tanzania.

As Chancellor Syverud has said, each of us should be prepared for possible disruptions in programs and operations, about which we may receive relatively little warning before we need the need to take action arises.

In addition to the many steps taken by SU, please note the following:

As you know, earlier this week, SU made the difficult decision to suspend its academic program in Florence, Italy, based on Italy's very aggressive stance toward virus containment and travel restrictions. Please know that we will do, and are doing, everything we can to avoid suspending any of our programs, but we must continue to prioritize the health, safety, and movement of our students. In addition to conditions on the ground, we must take into consideration the logistics of travel from disparate points to our programs.

Accordingly, we are mindful of the virus' potential impact on our upcoming **International Tax Program** in **Geneva** and this summer's **LondonEx**. **At this time, we are not planning any changes to these programs.** The College is in regular communication with Syracuse Abroad, the Office of Risk Management, the Graduate School, and other SU departments with a focus on these two programs.

Active discussions are underway within SU to determine the viability and feasibility of going forward with these programs under the current and rapidly-evolving circumstances around the spread of the virus worldwide. In the event adjustments are needed, we will work with affected students to deliver appropriate solutions for the satisfaction of academic requirements. Please

direct your questions to the College's Office of International Programs and Assistant Dean Andrew Horsfall, who is actively working on contingency plans.

Services across campus are being mobilized to address the urgent needs of our international students from China, Italy, and other countries impacted by recent developments who may find that returning home upon graduation (or at any time the virus is impacting mobility) is not an option. To that end, I encourage impacted students to work with the College's Office of International Programs and the Center for International Services to explore visa extension programs, such as Optional Practice Training, and short-term on-campus housing support coordinated through the University.

The virus may have an impact on enrollment in, and travel to, our programs in Syracuse this fall. The mobility of international students and their ability to prepare for, and travel to enter, the J.D. residential and LL.M. programs have been compromised by such factors as the closure of testing centers administering the TOEFL and IELTS exams in China, for example. The Office of Admissions and Financial Aid and the Office of International Programs are consulting with the SU's enrollment management leadership to institute provisional policies relating to English proficiency assessments, admissions deadlines, and conditional admission pathways for impacted students.

Travel Restrictions

SU has temporarily restricted students, faculty, and staff from traveling to China and South Korea for University purposes, effective immediately. Additional restrictions may be forthcoming based on the official guidance from the State Department and the CDC, which SU is monitoring. SU intends to remove restrictions when it is safe to do so and in accordance with official guidance. Out of an abundance of caution, anyone who travels to China or South Korea during this temporary restriction will not be able to return to any University building or facility for 14 days to allow for self-monitoring for any coronavirus symptoms. For students, please call the Barnes Center at The Arch at 315.443.8000 to coordinate with health and student support professionals. Faculty and staff should contact their primary care physicians to seek guidance.

Faculty and staff members who intend to travel anywhere in the world on SU business must remember to register their travel. [Please see this news announcement regarding the registry.](#) I ask that faculty and staff members notify Ginny Ottman in my office of your plans to travel internationally so that I am able to report on College of Law business travel to SU on a timely basis.

As is the case with the entire University community, the College of Law is steadfast in its commitment to provide care and offer empathy to our international students, many of whom are facing incredible challenges, including not being able to travel home and daily worry about their loved ones back home. I join Chancellor Syverud in urging all of us to practice kindness and compassion with faculty, staff, and students from affected regions.

Please continue to exercise good health practices, including handwashing and use of hand sanitizer, avoiding close contact with people who are sick, and cleaning and disinfecting surfaces frequently. To learn more about preventive health practices, please visit the [Barnes Center at The Arch website](#). Students should call the Barnes Center at The Arch (315.443.8000), and faculty and staff should contact their primary care physician should they develop symptoms of respiratory illness, including fever, cough or shortness of breath.

Finally, because the situation is changing rapidly, I encourage you to carefully monitor the [Center for Disease Control](#), the [U.S. State Department Travel Advisory System](#), and [World Health Organization Situation Reports](#). Please feel free to direct any questions you may have concerning your circumstances to Assistant Dean Andrew Horsfall or Director of Student Affairs Sarah Collins.

You will continue to hear from Chancellor Syverud, other University leaders, and me as new developments emerge and additional actions are taken.

Best regards,

Craig M. Boise

Dean and Profesor | College of Law