Guidance for Student Foreign Travel for Institutions of Higher Education and Kansas High Schools

Updated March 3, 2020

This guidance is for Kansas Institutes of Higher Education and Kansas high schools with students participating in foreign exchange or study abroad programs.

Consider postponing or canceling student foreign exchange programs

Given the global outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) institutes of higher education (IHE) and Kansas high schools should consider postponing or canceling upcoming student foreign exchange programs. Those overseeing student foreign exchange programs should be aware that students may face unpredictable circumstances, travel restrictions, challenges in returning home or accessing health care while abroad.

If the level of risk posed by COVID-19 in the countries which currently house Kansas students increases, schools may consider asking students participating in study abroad programs to return to the United States. Schools should work with state and local public health officials to determine the best approach for when and how (e.g., chartered transportation for countries or areas assessed as high-risk for exposure) their study abroad students might return. All plans for returning study abroad students should be designed to protect participants from stigma and discrimination.

The COVID-19 situation is dynamic. Given the speed of spread and the number of countries experiencing human-to-human transmission, schools should evaluate the risks associated with choosing to maintain programs abroad and take the appropriate proactive measures. Colleges, universities, and high schools that continue to maintain programs abroad should monitor http://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/index.htm and cdc.gov/COVID-19 for additional information.

If travel occurs to a Level 2 or Level 3 CDC Travel Health Advisory country (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html) travelers should expect to be under quarantine for 14-days after returning. This quarantine applies to people returning from these countries and don’t have symptoms including fever and lower respiratory symptoms. If travelers don’t have symptoms they can expect movement restrictions and symptom monitoring:

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| Travel from any country with a CDC Alert Level 2 or Warning Level 3 travel advisory and not having any exposure | • Remain at home or in a comparable setting.  
• Avoid congregate settings, limit public activities, and practice social distancing (e.g., shopping centers, movie theaters, stadiums), workplaces (unless the person works in an office space that allows distancing from others), schools and other classroom settings, and local public conveyances (e.g., bus, subway, taxi, ride share).  
• Postpone additional long-distance travel after reaching destination. | Self-Monitoring with Public Health Supervision:  
• Public Health will make initial contact and provide a plan for self-monitoring for fever and lower respiratory symptoms.  
• Contact will be made intermittently for 14 days since last exposure.  
• Public Health should make initial contact the same day, or the next morning in case of an evening notification. |
If travelers do have symptoms, including fever and lower respiratory symptoms, the traveler would be considered a Person Under Investigation and would be tested for COVID-19. If the test came back positive, the traveler would be under mandatory isolation for as long as it takes for symptoms to resolve and get two negative samples back. This could take several weeks.