

Coronavirus Monitoring

Austin College Faculty, Staff, and Students

Good morning!

I have no coronavirus immediate concerns for this campus or Grayson County community. I have not received any alerts for this area of the US.

For now the immediate concern is for influenza! Persons who are ill with fever, headache, cough, runny nose, sore throat, etc. should stay away from others. Flu shots are still available from Adams Center and are covered by your AC insurance.

Our students are fortunate to have opportunities to travel abroad to learn and explore. We have global international students join us here to create a wonderfully diverse community. That same travel and close quarters necessitated by traveling (airplanes, buses, etc.) may also allow exposure to illnesses.

I wanted to send information and resources for coronavirus. Coronavirus is a significant concern for China now and as the global population travels, it is a concern for other nations. Symptoms are consistent with cold or flu-like illness and can be passed person to person in the same manner as colds and flu. It can be prevented in the usual manner of hand wash, cover cough/sneeze, don't touch eye/nose/mouth. As with influenza, the coronavirus infection can cause worse illness such as pneumonia or even death.

An excellent source for information is <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>.

Symptoms:

Common human coronaviruses, including types 229E, NL63, OC43, and HKU1, usually cause mild to moderate upper-respiratory tract illnesses, like the common cold. Most people get infected with these viruses at some point in their lives. These illnesses usually only last for a short amount of time. Symptoms may include

- runny nose
- headache
- cough
- sore throat
- fever
- a general feeling of being unwell

Human coronaviruses can sometimes cause lower-respiratory tract illnesses, such as pneumonia or bronchitis. This is more common in people with cardiopulmonary disease, people with weakened immune systems, infants, and older adults.

Let me know if you have questions or concerns.

Stay well!



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