

From: Vice President Tim Millerick
Subject: Monitoring the Coronavirus at Austin College
Date: March 3, 2020

Dear Parents,

I write to you as parents of our students and I am seeking your partnership for their health and welfare, particularly during this time of the novel coronavirus update. Austin College is monitoring the coronavirus (COVID-19) carefully and is taking proactive and prudent measures to ensure the health and safety of the Austin College community in accordance with guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). See more details about [Monitoring the Coronavirus](#).

To date, there are no known cases on our campus.

A working group is meeting regularly to assess the current status of the coronavirus internationally, nationally, in the region, and here on campus. Their efforts are being coordinated with the Texas Department of Health Services (DSHS), the local County Health Department, and other agencies with whom the College partners (for example, study abroad agencies and the NCAA).

What do parents and families need to know?

***College sponsored travel.** College sponsored travel of all types is under review on a case-by-case basis. This review includes athletics, Alternative Spring Break, May Term 2020, and travel with clubs or organizations sponsored by the College. Medical guidelines and protocols are provided to those travelling.

***Personal travel during spring break.** Classes will continue through Friday, March 6 and will resume as scheduled on Monday, March 16. Students are encouraged to check these guidelines while traveling during spring break and before returning to campus. See more details about [Monitoring the Coronavirus](#).

***Are there any coronavirus cases on campus?** No, and management of any suspected infections are coordinated in tandem with the local County Health Department, local hospitals, and medical advisors based upon individual history, symptoms, and the level of medical care needed. We have quarantine residential facilities for any students who are undergoing a 14-day screening quarantine. Students will have access to IT and other academic resources to continue their studies.

***Regular Updates.** Our Director of Health Services, Ms. Lenora Hatch, meets daily with health agencies and continues to send regular campus updates via email. These updates and resources are on our **website**. See more details about [Monitoring the Coronavirus](#).

***What about the flu?** The most immediate health concern for college-age students is influenza.

- The flu is contagious 3-5 days *before* symptoms and 3-5 days after symptoms improve.
- Current antiviral medication used *does not* prevent spread of the illness. Those medications can make you feel better, but please stay away from others for 5 days after the start of symptoms.

***Preventing Illness.** We need your partnership to help students be mindful of health routines.

- Frequent hand washing with soap and water 20 seconds or use of liberal amounts of 60% alcohol hand wash solution. Use paper towels to dry hands after soap and water.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces – this would include cell phones. Simple Clorox type wipes can be used to clean the cell phone. This type of wipe does not damage the glass or the camera.
- Cover cough and sneeze. And gently remind others to do so.
- Stay home if sick or have fever greater than 99.9 (flu infections do not always have a high fever)
- Don't touch your face/eyes/mucus membranes.

The CDC is an excellent resource for frequently updated information. The CDC includes travel recommendations, countries with widespread or sustained community transmission, domestic updates, and recommendations. [Visit the Center for Disease Control Website for more details.](#)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy P. Millerick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "M".

Timothy P. Millerick
Vice President for Student Affairs and Athletics