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Coronavirus (COVID-19)

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COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION: Multiple Harvard community members have tested positive for COVID-19. Learn more.

Harvard University is closely monitoring the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. As the situation continues to change rapidly, our top priority remains the health, safety, and well-being of our community, on and off campus. We are planning for several contingency scenarios and taking decisive, informed action to limit the spread of COVID-19 while ensuring the continuity of our teaching and research mission. The University remains open and operational with appropriate measures to protect the health of the community. We will continue to update the community regularly to keep you informed of additional measures.

Health and Wellbeing

Your physical and mental health are of utmost importance.

- **If you are concerned about potential exposure to individuals who are being tested or who have tested positive:** Contact investigation and notification is overseen by the local Department of Public Health. Any persons who have had close contact with individuals in question have been notified by the Department of Public Health in accordance with standard public health principles. If you have not been notified, then you are not deemed to have an increased risk because of exposure to these individuals.
- If you may have been exposed to COVID-19 and have symptoms, contact your primary care provider and also email HUHS, healthservices@huhs.harvard.edu, so we can advise you. Do not go to a medical office or emergency room without calling first.
- If you had an exposure but no symptoms, review and follow HUHS' [guide to determine whether you should self-isolate](#).
- **Even if HUHS is not your healthcare provider:** Email HUHS, healthservices@huhs.harvard.edu, if you're being tested for COVID-19 or if you've received a positive test result for COVID-19 so we can continue to assess the impact on our community.
- Practice and promote [good, basic hygiene](#), and know [when and how to wash your hands and use sanitizer](#).
- Practice universal [social distancing](#) to protect everyone.
- Review HUHS' guide to [managing fear and anxiety](#).
- Contact [Counseling and Mental Health Services](#) (for students) or [Harvard's Employee Assistance Program](#) to speak with a mental health professional.

Teach Remotely

The decision to transition to remote instruction aligns with our goal to reduce the number of interactions on campus, slow the rate of transmission, and protect our community. We understand there are pedagogical, logistical, and technological challenges to these extraordinary measures. University leadership and your Schools are here to support you. See [Teach Remotely](#) for helpful resources and information.

Effective March 10 and until further notice:

- We will begin transitioning to online instruction for all graduate and undergraduate classes. The goal is to complete this transition by March 23.
- Schools will communicate more specific guidance, and we encourage you to review your [School and Program-specific coronavirus page](#) for more information.

Learn Remotely

The decision to transition to remote learning aligns with our goal to reduce the number of interactions on campus (in classrooms, dining halls, and residential buildings), slow the rate of transmission, and protect our community. We understand there are personal, logistical, and financial challenges to these extraordinary measures. University leadership and your Schools are here to support you. See [Learn Remotely](#) for helpful resources and information.

Effective March 10 and until further notice:

- We will begin transitioning to online instruction for all graduate and undergraduate classes. The goal is to complete this transition by March 23.
 - Government guidance assures us that international students can participate in online classes without concern for their immigration status, provided they continue to make normal progress in a full course of study as required by federal regulations.
- Students are asked not to return to campus after Spring Recess and to meet academic requirements remotely.
 - We know there will be difficult and extenuating circumstances for students who cannot leave campus or do not have another place to go. We will provide you the help you need to stay safe, secure, and continue with your academic work.
- Students who need to remain on campus for extenuating circumstances will also receive instruction remotely and must prepare for severely limited on-campus activities and interactions.
- All graduate students will transition to remote work wherever possible.
- Schools will communicate more specific guidance, and we encourage you to review your [School and Program-specific coronavirus page](#) for more information.

Work Remotely

The decision to transition to a remote workforce across Harvard's Schools and Units aligns with our goal to lower the number of interactions on campus, slow the rate of transmission, and protect our community. We also know many staff must be on campus to sustain research and labs, support the residential population still on campus, and keep the University healthy and secure. We are actively addressing the unique employment considerations and questions across our workforce. The situation is changing rapidly, and HR is reviewing and adjusting workplace policies accordingly. See [Work Remotely](#) for helpful resources and information.

Beginning the week of March 16:

- All those who can work remotely will start to do so until further notice.

- Policies, approaches, and timelines may vary across Harvard's Schools and Units.
- Speak with your manager and refer to your local HR's guidance.

Travel

Travel can increase the risks of exposure to you and the community. Government restrictions and public health measures are changing fast. If you travel, those changes may make it hard for you to resume your academic and professional activities. See [Travel Guidance](#) for details and more information.

Effective through at least April 30 or until further notice:

- All University-related international travel is prohibited.
- All personal international travel is strongly discouraged.
- All University-related non-essential domestic air travel is prohibited.
- We strongly urge extreme caution and judgment for your personal domestic travel.
- Anyone who returns or arrives to campus from a location with a [CDC level 3 travel warning for COVID-19](#), must complete this confidential [health form](#) at least 48 hours before your return/arrival to campus and [self-isolate](#) until you receive formal guidance from Harvard University Health Services. Most self-isolations will last 14 days.

Events and Meetings

Harvard's goal is to reduce the number and proximity of people on campus in order to slow the potential transmission of the virus and protect vulnerable populations from exposure. All members of the Harvard community are asked to help in this effort. See [Meeting & Event Guidance](#) for details and more information.

Effective through at least April 30 or until further notice:

- We strongly discourage any non-essential meetings or events of 25 people or more.
- Meetings or events of any size should be reconsidered, and remote collaboration tools should be used instead.
- Events with speakers invited from off campus—whether the speakers are international or domestic—should be cancelled, postponed, or conducted remotely.
- Meeting and event organizers are responsible for knowing and understanding the University's coronavirus restrictions and informing their participants.
- Anyone who returns or arrives to campus from a location with a [CDC level 3 travel warning for COVID-19](#), must complete this confidential [health form](#) at least 48 hours before your return/arrival to campus and [self-isolate](#) until you receive formal guidance from Harvard University Health Services. Most self-isolations will last 14 days.

Visitors to Campus

Harvard's goal is to reduce the number of people on campus—including visitors—in order to slow the potential transmission of the virus and protect vulnerable populations from exposure.

All members of the Harvard community, on and off campus, are asked to help in this effort. See [Meeting & Event Guidance](#) and [Visit Harvard](#) for details and more information.

Effective through at least April 30 or until further notice:

- Events with speakers invited from off campus—whether the speakers are international or domestic—should be cancelled, postponed, or conducted remotely.
- Job interviews for open positions should be conducted remotely via video- or teleconferencing tools or by telephone.
- All public and private tours of Harvard University are discontinued.
- The University's museums are closed to the public.
- Individuals, programs, and groups are responsible for informing their invited guests about Harvard's coronavirus policies.
- Any visitor arriving to campus from a location with a [CDC level 3 travel warning for COVID-19](#), must follow the same guidance as Harvard affiliates: complete this confidential [health form](#) at least 48 hours before your arrival to campus and [self-isolate](#) until you receive formal guidance from Harvard University Health Services. Most self-isolations will last 14 days. This designation can change quickly, and anyone welcoming an international visitor should confirm the location's CDC travel designation.

Additional Resources

- [Commencement 2020 FAQs](#)
- [HUHS positive test results and self-reporting](#)
- [HUIT help desk](#) and [School's local IT](#)
- [HUIT service status dashboard and alerts](#)
- [For media](#)
- [MessageMe](#)

A Message from President Bacow

President Larry Bacow speaks to the Harvard community about the University's coronavirus response.

Advice & Resources

[School & Program Information](#)

Providing the latest updates and information to individual schools and programs.

[School & Programs](#)

[Social Distancing](#)

This resource explains how best to take care of yourself and your community.

[HUHS flyer](#)

Returning from a high-risk area

University guidance for those who have recently returned from an area at high risk of COVID-19

[HUHS website](#)

Communication Resources

Fact sheets, posters and table top tents to post in common areas around campus.

[HUHS Resources](#)

Resources from Harvard University Health Services

[HUHS Information and Updates](#)

Travel Information

GSS: Advice for Travelers

Harvard Global Support Services provides updates on international travel during this rapidly evolving public health situation.

[GSS website](#)

Register International Travel

Register your international trip — even if you consider your destination safe — for peace of mind and expedited access to critical resources.

[Register](#)

Travel Cancellation & Reimbursement

For those traveling on University business, the Harvard Travel Policy allows for reimbursement of cancellation or change fees with a valid reason. The current coronavirus outbreak meets this requirement.

[Harvard Travel Services website](#)

Coronavirus news, features, and Q&As about coronavirus from around Harvard

[View the Harvard Gazette series Coronavirus news, features, and Q&As about coronavirus from around Harvard](#)

Additional Health Information

[Resources from Ready.gov](#)

[Visit Ready.gov](#)

[Resources from the World Health Organization](#)

[Visit the WHO website](#)

[Resources from the Center for Disease Control](#)

[Visit the CDC website](#)

[Guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Health](#)

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