

CORONAVIRUS 2019 (COVID-19)



Background Information

COVID-19 was discovered in December 2019 in the city of Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. It is an aggressive respiratory infection that is believed to be transmitted through droplet spread when infected people cough or sneeze. The virus can gain access to the body through the respiratory tract, mainly through the nose and mouth. Symptoms are similar to the common influenza strain and include fever, cough, muscle pain, shortness of breath, and fatigue.

Initially isolated to mainland China, the World Health Organization (WHO) is reporting for the first time that there are more new cases being discovered outside China than from within China.¹ As of their March 1 report, the WHO is reporting 87,137 confirmed cases, with only 7,169 of those outside of China.²

In the United States, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is reporting 494 presumptive positive cases of COVID-19, meaning they have tested positive by a public health laboratory and are pending confirmation by the CDC. This includes at least 2 cases of where the virus was contracted by individuals with no relevant travel history.³ The first death due to COVID-19 in the United States was reported in Washington State on February 29⁴.

Regarding travel, the CDC has issued the following recommendations⁵:

- Warning (Level 3) – avoid all non-essential travel to China, South Korea, Italy, and Iran. Entry of foreign nationals from China and Iran into the U.S. has been suspended.
- Alert (Level 2) – older adults and those with chronic medical conditions should consider postponing travel to Japan.
- Watch (Level 1) – use regular travel precautions for travel to Hong Kong.

Resources

This is an ongoing situation that is evolving quickly. For updated information regarding the spread of the virus and travel advisories please consult the following resources:

- World Health Organization – [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Outbreak](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200226-sitrep-37-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=2146841e_2)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html)
- International SOS – [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Outbreak](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200301-sitrep-41-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=6768306d_2)
- U.S. State Department – [Current Outbreak of Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html)

¹ World Health Organization, *Coronavirus Situation Report #37*. February 26, 2020. https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200226-sitrep-37-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=2146841e_2

² World Health Organization *Coronavirus Situation Report #41, March 1, 2020*. https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200301-sitrep-41-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=6768306d_2

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the U.S.* February 29, 2020. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Summary*. February 29, 2020. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Travel*. March 2, 2020. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

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Insurance Information:

We encourage you to review all information regarding our insurance's coverage policy - specifically regarding hospitalization, treatment, and evacuation due to contracting COVID-19.

As is customary - claim forms (supplied by student's program director) need to be properly filled out and submitted, to ensure coverage of all related medical expenses.

Please email us at aca@nadadventist.org for the full document on the ACA insurance policies.

Current Academic Year 2019-2020

Second Quarter (Jan-Mar 2020)

ACA Italy:

Early Departure from Program

Due to the unfortunate fact that Italy was put on a Level 3 Travel Advisory (Feb 29, 2020), all students were given the opportunity to choose to take their second quarter final exams early and return home. Per the request of some universities – arrangements were made to facilitate their student's ability to take their second quarter final exams at their home university. This special accommodation was solely made for our program in Italy - due to the Level 3 Travel Advisory.

Safety Measures

A full list of safety measures implemented at our program in Italy are available via email at aca@nadadventist.org.

All Other ACA Programs:

ACA does not intend to close any of the programs unless otherwise required by local governments or the US State Department. As of now, all ACA programs are still in session. Classes have not been interrupted, though some adjustments have been made to cultural tours in order to ensure the safety of all students.

Added safety measures are being put in place at each program. These measures will affect student's personal travel plans and possibly their participation in the programs' planned cultural tours. If a student shows any signs of a contagious disease (such as the common cold or flu), they may be asked to remain in their dorm room on campus in consideration of their safety and the safety of the other students. In the unfortunate event that a student shows any symptoms of COVID-19, they will immediately be taken to the nearest hospital.

The decision to remain in any ACA program implies that the student is committing to follow all the safety measures indicated by their program director. Failure to follow the measures implemented at any ACA program will result in immediate expulsion from the ACA program.

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Our program directors are readily available to assist our students in arrangements for an early departure, or in managing stress in the middle of this crisis.

Third Quarter (Mar-May/Jun 2020)

ACA is following the information provided by official sources such as the CDC and US State Department. As of now - Italy is the only country where we have a program that has an official travel advisory (Level 3). All the other countries where we have ACA programs at this time, do not have a travel advisory related to COVID-19.

It is our intention to keep all programs running as our ACA campuses continue to remain a safe environment for our students. Please be advised that ACA does not offer online courses. We only offer courses taken abroad on our campuses.

For any questions regarding reimbursement or billing adjustments for the third quarter, contact us at aca@nadadventist.org.

Communication Sent to All ACA Students

If you are interested in seeing the information circulated via email to all our ACA students, please email us at aca@nadadventist.org.

Summer 2020

ACA Taiwan: Our program in Taiwan is temporarily suspended for the summer of 2020.

All Other Summer Programs: At this time, the ACA office will continue accepting applications for the ACA 2020 summer programs. If any program is suspended due to the COVID-19 outbreak - students will be fully reimbursed the price paid for the ACA program applied for. NO reimbursements will be issued for plane tickets - therefore caution is advised.

Only after a student is accepted into an ACA program, it is recommended to seek and purchase “fully refundable” fares, or fares that allow for last minute cancellations, or that include travel insurance.

Academic Year 2020-2021

The ACA office will continue accepting applications for the ACA 2020-2021 academic year programs. If any program is suspended due to the COVID-19 outbreak - students will be fully reimbursed the price paid for the ACA program applied for. NO reimbursements will be issued for plane tickets - therefore caution is advised.

Only after a student is accepted into an ACA program, it is recommended to seek and purchase “fully refundable” fares, or fares that allow for last minute cancellations, or that includes travel insurance.

*Any updates to this document will be highlighted