

Good afternoon, all.

In light of all of the news reports regarding coronavirus, I have received several questions regarding if the college has a plan if there were confirmed cases here in Houston.

The good news is that **there are no indications of any cases of coronavirus in Texas**, much less here on campus.

But, as we are in peak cold and flu season, a few updates:

1. If necessary, South Texas College of Law Houston has a protocol, as part of our Emergency Operations Plan, for Infectious Disease; we are ready to implement that plan in the unlikely event we need to do so.
2. As part of our normal procedures, we monitor the global, national, state, and local levels so that we can be proactive -- and so that we can avoid overreacting, as well. Here is the latest information from the Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.
3. All of us can take some additional measures to help limit the likelihood that we might get sick. Here is some information from the CDC you might consider on illness prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>. Of course, the usual rules for health apply (washing hands frequently; avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth; covering coughs and sneezes; etc.).
4. To help us all, South Texas is increasing the number of hand sanitizing locations throughout campus; please use them! We also are stepping up the cleaning and disinfecting of high-traffic surfaces (railings, elevator buttons, and the like).
5. **Per the CDC: If you are sick, please stay home!** The best way to prevent the spread of illness is to starve the pathogen of new victims. For students, each course allows a certain number of absences -- because everyday life includes unforeseen illnesses, family emergencies, transportation difficulties, inclement weather, and the like.
6. And, should you or someone with whom you have been in contact be diagnosed with coronavirus, please let us know so that we can respond appropriately and support you.

While coronavirus has grabbed the headlines, other illnesses (including the common flu) can be debilitating, as well. It is my sincere hope that each of us has a safe and healthy semester. But, should we need to act, the college has a plan for infectious disease. And, should you get sick, please respect others in our community by not putting their health at risk.

All the best,

Michael F. Barry, J.D.
President and Dean