

Dear South Texas Community:

I wanted to let you know that South Texas College of Law Houston continues to monitor developments pertaining to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). In addition, we are reviewing updates and recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and the World Health Organization, and we are in constant communication with Harris County and other local authorities.

Five takeaways:

1. **Don't panic.** While our law school's operations continue as usual, we are aware that, with an evolving public-health issue, things can change quickly. If necessary, South Texas College of Law Houston has a protocol for responding to an infectious disease outbreak, and we are preparing now so that we will be ready to implement that plan in the unlikely event we need to do so.
2. **Stay home if you are sick.** Please respect others in our community by not putting their health at risk, and **do not come to campus if you are sick.** The best way to prevent the spread of illness is to eliminate contact with those who have not been exposed to the illness.
3. **Practice good hygiene.** As a reminder, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) always recommends everyday preventive actions to help stop the spread of respiratory diseases, including the following:
  - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
  - Stay home when you are sick.
  - Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Because it is peak flu season, we already have taken measures to increase our on-campus cleaning and disinfecting of high-traffic areas, including railings, elevator buttons, and other areas. We have also placed hand sanitizers throughout campus; please use them.

4. **Be thoughtful about travel.** As we approach spring break, it is prudent to evaluate personal travel plans – particularly international travel plans. Given the fluid nature of this situation, and the now ubiquitous two-week quarantine for anyone who may have experienced a possible exposure to the virus, it is important that all travel plans be evaluated accordingly.
5. **Be prepared.** With any potential emergency, it always is best to be prepared. Many authorities have recommended stocking up on water, non-perishable foods, and a supply of any necessary medications in case of a quarantine.

We will continue to keep our community updated as this situation evolves. Unless there is an urgent development, we will provide an update next Wednesday.

It is my sincere hope that each of us has a safe and healthy semester.