

March 11, 2020 Update to the UA System's Interim Emergency Policy – Information Regarding Spring Break

As are colleges and universities throughout North America, the University of Alabama System is taking precautionary measures regarding the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff.

In preparation for the upcoming spring break March 16-20 at UA and UAB, with UAH's break the following week (March 23-27), our **current plans call for maintaining normal campus operations**. Our guidance is based on the best information available to us at this time from local, state and federal agencies and health care professionals.

As you consider plans for spring break, please keep these important points in mind to protect yourself and our community from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

1. Our goal is to provide continuity and consistency for our students. If the situations in our communities change, we will transition to alternative modes of instruction (such as on-line classes) to protect the health and safety of System campuses. While current plans are to maintain regular schedules, it is possible that System campuses could move to alternative modes of instruction at some point this semester depending on the state of COVID-19 in Alabama. **IF** it becomes necessary to cancel in-person classes, plan ahead to have what you need. When you leave for spring break, take essential belongings with you (e.g., class materials, textbooks, medications, electronics, valuables, etc.), in the event a transition to alternative modes of instruction becomes necessary.
2. If you live on campus, are uncomfortable traveling, and **prefer to stay** on campus during spring break, we will provide you with accommodations. It is important that you notify us of your plans if you decide to remain on campus. You should follow the instructions for notification previously sent by UA and UAB, or contact the Office of Student Affairs on your campus.
3. Everyone on our campuses should take extra care to follow personal hygiene instructions from the [CDC](#):
 - Wash hands frequently, and avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
 - Avoid sick people, avoid people if you are sick, and do not travel if you are sick.
 - Clean and disinfect surfaces, and cover your cough or sneeze with a sleeve or tissue.
 - Protect against the flu by getting the flu vaccine. The flu vaccine does not protect against COVID-19, but the flu is still circulating in the community at this time.
 - The CDC does not recommend the general public buy or wear masks in the United States.
 - If you have symptoms, call your health care provider BEFORE going to the doctor.
4. Continue to be vigilant, plan ahead and protect against spreading viral illness. The following two maps are available to assist you with accurate information on affected areas:
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Global Outbreak Map](#)
[CDC United States Outbreak Map](#)
5. If you develop respiratory symptoms during spring break, or are exposed to an individual with or suspected of having COVID-19, then please DO NOT return to campus, and we will work with you to provide alternative arrangements for remote learning through the best available platforms. Students should contact their advisor or program head regarding academic concerns.

6. We are continuously monitoring the situation, which could change at any time. We will notify you of updated information and policy changes on the UA System's [dedicated webpage](#).

We want to remind everyone to please monitor your emails. The System's previous advisories canceling international travel and discouraging any non-essential domestic travel remain in effect. Advisories and updates can be found at <http://uasystem.edu/news/2020/02/ua-system-covid-19-updates/>.