



February 3, 2020

Texas Higher Education Institutions, School Districts, and State Agencies:

To ensure the risk of novel coronavirus spread in the United States remains low, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is implementing restrictions on entry into the United States from the People's Republic of China. In a complementary action, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is implementing public health measures to monitor and quarantine entering travelers who are at risk of carrying novel coronavirus. These measures were implemented February 2, 2020, and are in line with the [presidential proclamation](#) issued by President Trump on January 31, 2020.

The United States Department of State continues its Level 4: Do Not Travel Advisory for China. Based on this, commercial airlines have reduced or altogether suspended routes to and from China. The full travel advisory can be read [here](#).

The State of Texas encourages everyone to heed the advice of the State Department and the CDC and avoid travel to China. Universities, schools, and state agencies who have employees or students in China should arrange to return their people to the United States or move them to another area without ongoing coronavirus spread.

All flights from China are being funneled through a limited number of U.S. airports to ensure consistent screening and handling of incoming passengers who may have been exposed to novel coronavirus. The CDC will require 14 days of monitoring or quarantine for entering travelers who are at risk for coronavirus according to CDC-established parameters. The CDC is updating and maintaining guidance on entry into the U.S. on its novel coronavirus website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is available as a resource to you for questions regarding health risks and monitoring of individuals who are under investigation for coronavirus, including individuals returning to the United States. The DSHS Novel Coronavirus webpage is being continually updated as new

information emerges to provide the latest and most science-based guidance for Texans: www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/.

The situation in China is fluid and will continue for an unknown amount of time. It is important for entities to ensure their people are moved outside of the outbreak area and then returned home as soon as possible. DSHS stands ready to assist you as Texans return to our communities. In the event you need information or have questions, please contact coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Hellerstedt", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John Hellerstedt, M.D.
Commissioner