

COVID-19 and Stanford Earth  
March 5, 2020

Dear Stanford Earth community,

I am writing today to be sure everyone has seen the [latest University communications and guidelines on COVID-19](#). I want to reassure all of you that the dean's office is working closely with our student services staff, department managers, IT, and the University as it develops and updates procedures to protect the health of our students, faculty and staff.

The strategy is to slow the spread of the virus through 'social distancing' by reducing the number of large group meetings and employing technology where feasible.

### **Events and visitors**

With that in mind, we ask that all non-essential events be canceled. That includes social gatherings such as Friday Liquidus. And we have just called off tomorrow night's Pi Day, which usually attracts some 75 people.

Large events such as the international mid-March Natural Capital Forum have been canceled through mid-April. For affiliate meetings, seminars, and invited speaker events, we recommend you cancel or provide a virtual alternative where the speaker can be Zoomed in remotely or attendees can tune in to a speaker. For best practices, see the University's [videoconferencing site](#). Our goal is to help contain transmission of illness, so not having visitors come here (and be on an airplane) is one way to do that.

Visitors who are planning to come for a quarter or longer, are not from a restricted country, and cannot reschedule their stay, can follow through with their plans. But those visitors may be asked to self-quarantine upon their arrival (if they have been exposed) and may have difficulty returning to their home, depending on the situation at the time.

Going forward, you will find all updates from Associate Vice Provost for Stanford Environmental Health & Safety Russell Furr and others on the [Stanford COVID-19 Health Alerts](#) site daily. You can now find that link at the [top of every one of our school web pages](#) for easy reference.

To recap some of the key items in today's announcements:

- University-sponsored international travel to any country is now restricted. If you must travel internationally, please **register it with the University [MyTrips](#) site**.
- There is a strong recommendation against personal international travel. If undertaken, there is a chance there may be a 14-day self-isolation requirement upon return and possibly air or government restrictions on return that are beyond Stanford's control. Check the COVID-19 Health Alerts daily as new countries or restrictions are added or removed.
- The University recommends against non-essential University-sponsored domestic travel to reduce our contribution to the spread of infection to other areas. Encourage teleconferencing.

- For personal travel, consider your own health status.
- Students who wish to avoid travel over spring break can stay on campus.
- Classes will continue through the end of the quarter.

### **Domestic Field and research trips**

At this time, domestic teaching or research trips can still proceed. However, instructors should strongly consider alternatives, particularly if the travel involves increased risk, such as air travel or other crowded spaces. If you have questions about your field trip or want to discuss options, contact Ryan Petterson ([rypett@stanford.edu](mailto:rypett@stanford.edu)), Director of Field Education at Stanford Earth. Travelers should monitor the University Health Alerts daily, as travel restrictions may change. Anyone leading a field trip (either research or teaching) must also **complete this Stanford EARTH travel information [form](#)**.

### **Classes and exams**

I know many of you have questions about course work and finals. Technology options and exam protocols are being sorted through academic and IT channels. As of this writing, classes will continue through the end of the quarter but faculty should be flexible, especially with exposed or immune-compromised students, and be ready for changes in the future. Virtual teaching resources can be found [here](#).

### **Staff work**

The university supports the use of Zoom and other technologies for meetings of any size to support social distancing. Working from home is an option depending on employee responsibilities and will need to be a discussion between managers and their reports. For best practices on using Zoom for individual or group meetings, check out this [site](#).

Hygiene remains a key defense. Remember to:

- **Stay home if you are ill.**
- **Wash hands with soap for 20 seconds.**
- **Cough into your elbow.**

Watch for more information coming from the University as this situation develops locally and nationally. Your good health is my top priority.