COVID-19 and Duquesne University Overseas Travel

Frequently Asked Questions

Has Duquesne cancelled any of its programs overseas?

Duquesne protocol on these issues follows the recommendations and advice of the U.S. State Department and the Center for Disease Control (CDC), which has not recommended against travel to the countries for our current programs, in particular, Italy. Italy has been placed on a Level 2 status, which asks travelers to “practice enhanced precautions” (see attached).

- Our summer program to China has been cancelled in response to the State Department and CDC recommendations
- Spring Break Away programs are scheduled to depart toward the end of week as planned.
- Our Duquesne in Rome and Duquesne in Dublin campuses are functioning as usual.
- On-site courses at Duquesne in Rome program are running regularly. We have made adjustments to our group excursions to avoid “hotspots” in Italy and students have been advised on these precautions as they prepare for their own Spring Break travel.
- There have been no reports of COVID-19 in Ireland.

What if I wish to cancel my participation in a current program?

Since the University currently follows the recommendations of the State Department and CDC and we have kept our programs open, students will have to consider forfeiting their financial commitments as the University is honoring its financial arrangements with our program providers. Funds have been spent according to provisions in contracts and vendors are unlikely to issue refunds if no national travel ban is in place.

In most cases, students will have to forfeit their semester.

What if I wish to cancel my participation in a program that is about to depart for Spring Break?

Since the University currently follows the recommendation of the State Department and CDC and we have kept our programs open, students will have to consider forfeiting their financial commitments as the University is honoring its financial arrangements with hotels, tour providers, and airlines. Funds have been spent according to provisions in contracts and vendors are unlikely to issue refunds if no national travel ban is in place.

Continuation of the course is at the discretion of the faculty leader. Students must speak with their faculty leader to make special arrangements to complete a class.
**What if the situation escalates and students are quarantined during their program?**

Duquesne administration is proactively monitoring the situation. In the unlikely event that circumstances change, we will work with program providers and travel professionals to make the appropriate arrangements and financial commitments to ensure our students’ safety.

Duquesne is acutely aware of the complexities of this situation and we are conscious of the concerns of our students and families. Our priority is to ensure the safety and security of all of our students.

*Updated 2/26/20*
Center for Disease Control “Enhanced Precaution” Recommendations

COVID-19 symptoms are similar to those of influenza (e.g., fever, cough, and shortness of breath), and the current outbreak is occurring during a time of year when respiratory illnesses from influenza and other viruses, including other coronaviruses that cause the “common cold,” are highly prevalent.

To prevent influenza and possible unnecessary evaluation for COVID-19, all persons aged ≥6 months should receive an annual influenza vaccine; vaccination is still available and effective in helping to prevent influenza.

To decrease risk for respiratory disease, persons can practice recommended preventive measures:

- 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.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC’s recommendations for using a facemask.
  - CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
  - Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).
- 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. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

Persons ill with symptoms of COVID-19 who have had contact with a person with COVID-19 or recent travel to countries with apparent community spread should communicate with their health care provider.

Before seeking medical care, they should consult with their provider to make arrangements to prevent possible transmission in the health care setting.

In a medical emergency, they should inform emergency medical personnel about possible COVID-19 exposure.