

To faculty, staff, and students (College and School of Theology)

March 12, 2020

Dear Members of the University Community,

On the evening of March 11, two important changes occurred that affect travelers to the Schengen Area of Europe*. [President Trump made an announcement](#) to suspend all travel by foreign nationals, and special procedures for U.S. citizens, leaving the Schengen Area for the United States, beginning at midnight on Friday, March 13. Please note that the suspension of travel does not require U.S. citizens to leave before midnight on Friday. In addition, the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\) raised its travel advisory for the Schengen Area](#) to level 3 (do not travel), its highest warning level. Based on these two developments, we want to alert you to potential problems that may arise if you travel to the Schengen Area. We ask that you take note of the following:

1. If you have not begun your travel to the Schengen Area of Europe, we strongly discourage you from commencing your travel. Many airlines are offering special concessions to change tickets or postpone travel, and you should avail yourself of such offers.
2. If you have already arrived in the Schengen Area, you should arrange for a timely return to the United States. Your airlines may offer reduced ticket change fees. In some cases, purchasing a one-way ticket from your location or through the U.K. may be less expensive than change fees for an existing ticket. In addition, there may be restrictions on which airports you may fly through in the United States due to special procedures related to President Trump's announcement.
3. Once you arrive home from the Schengen Area, per the [Centers for Disease Control level 3 travel warning](#), you must self-quarantine for 14 days. For most students, we want you to return to your home for the 14-day quarantine period. If that is not possible, we ask that, several days in advance, you contact the University Health Services and the Dean of Students Office to arrange an appropriate location for social isolation. For faculty and staff, we ask that you engage in self-quarantine at home and notify your dean and department chair (faculty) or Human Resources and your supervisor (staff). During this period, exempt staff should consult with their supervisors to arrange to work from home. Non-exempt staff will be paid for their normal hours for the time period of their quarantine. If non-exempt staff become sick, they should begin to use their sick leave time. Faculty who must engage in self-quarantine should deliver any coursework through online platforms. Guidance and best practices for remote teaching are forthcoming from the Center for Teaching and Library and Information Technology Services. As many persons can be asymptomatic carriers of the virus, and in order to prevent further spread, we ask that you follow this important directive from the CDC.

On your return trip, please pay attention to hygiene, including washing hands often and, if possible, sterilizing your seats and tray tables. These modest efforts can provide some protection on your way home.

For more information about strategies to protect yourself during the COVID-19 outbreak and to learn about Sewanee's response to the situation, [please see our website](#).

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we work toward your safe return to the United States and completion of the semester.

Sincerely,

Nancy Berner

Provost

* The Schengen Area of Europe includes Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Monaco, San Marino, and Vatican City.