

Novel Coronavirus FAQs for International Students

(Updated 02/06/2020)

What is the Novel Coronavirus?

The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a virus (more specifically, a [coronavirus](#)) identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, China. At this time, it's unclear how easily or sustainably this virus is spreading between people. The latest situation summary updates are available on CDC's web page [2019 Novel Coronavirus, Wuhan, China](#).

The University's Wellness Center and the Office of Global Citizenship routinely monitor world health issues that could pose a threat to campus and members of our community. To date, there are no confirmed cases of the Novel Coronavirus on the Sewanee campus, nor do we have reason to believe that any of our students have come into contact with the Novel Coronavirus. In order to stay healthy, we recommend all students and community members:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer and rub your hands vigorously
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Illnesses spread this way
- Avoid close contact with sick people.

For more information, review the following websites:

[FAQs on the Novel Coronavirus](#)

[Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)

[World Health Organization](#)

[State Department Travel Advisory](#)

[Presidential Proclamation](#)

What should I do over the summer if I can't go home to China?

We recommend that international students do not travel to China until the travel restrictions are lifted. As a result, students should explore summer internships and research opportunities in Sewanee and other parts of the United States. Note that many of the application deadlines for such opportunities are quickly approaching, some as early as February 15th. You can explore [SURE](#) (Summer Undergraduate Research Fellows) and internship opportunities through Handshake, Sewanee's job-search platform. International students can also use [Interstride](#), a job search tool specifically designed for international students.

Where can I live this summer if I don't have an internship and can't go home?

In the event that travel to and from China is restricted during the summer, international students are able to stay in on-campus summer housing. All summer housing options have a communal kitchen that students can use to prepare their meals. Current international students will receive more information regarding summer housing after spring break via email. For more information, contact [Sarah Marhevsky](#).

I'm graduating from Sewanee in May. Can my parents come for my graduation?

Family members coming from China to the United States face two barriers. First, The Presidential Proclamation of January 31, 2020 bars the entry into the United States of foreign nationals who have

been in China within the 14 days immediately prior to arrival in the United States. In addition, the recent voluntary evacuation of U.S. government workers from China is likely to cause significant delays in visa issuance. If you have questions about family members' travel to the U.S., please contact [Abby Colbert](#).

I'm planning to enroll as a freshman at Sewanee in the fall. Will the Novel Coronavirus affect my start date?

The Office of Admission and the Office of Global Citizenship are consistently monitoring the potential effect of the Novel Coronavirus on new international students' ability to travel. Please reach out to the International Enrollment Coordinator, [Tim Neil](#), for specific information or if you have any questions.