Dear ESF Community,

The SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry has been actively monitoring developments related to the novel coronavirus – COVID-19 since reports of the outbreak first surfaced in China. Administration is partnering with area organizations to prepare for a variety of scenarios moving forward. Currently, we are discouraging all international travel and are cancelling spring break study abroad trips. We will work with students and faculty to ensure that students are provided with opportunities to fulfill academic requirements.

As of Tuesday, March 3, according to the New York State Department of Health website, there are 41 persons in New York State under investigation for COVID-19, with one positive case (in New York City) and one pending test result. We would like to take this opportunity to share thoughts on the prevention, detection and treatment of the virus and to indicate what we are doing to prepare – should the need arise at SUNY-ESF. According to the CDC, at this moment, the most important step that can be taken by our campus community and our coalition is to remain focused on prevention.

Please pay close attention to the following advice:
- Frequent and prolonged hand washing with soap and hot water.
- 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.

If you have a fever, cough or shortness of breath, do not come to campus. We are collaborating with the faculty and supervisors on guidelines for accommodating students and employees who are ill. We urge you to work with your faculty or supervisor to coordinate coverage of your responsibilities.

Faculty and staff should contact their primary care physician if they develop symptoms of a respiratory illness, including fever, cough or shortness of breath. Students should call the ESF Student Health Services at Crouse Medical Practice or their primary care provider as soon as possible to ask if you should be seen or to schedule an appointment. ESF Student Health
As we have monitored the situation, our focus was initially on travelers to and from parts of China. Today, we know the spread of the virus is broader and has moved to other parts of Asia, Europe, most especially Italy, and the Middle East. We are committed to limiting exposure for our students, faculty and staff. Toward that goal, the college has done the following:

- The college is strongly recommending against all international travel and will not be approving travel to CDC-level 3 countries (currently China, Iran, South Korea, and Italy) for official college business, effective immediately. The college will actively monitor guidance from the State Department and the CDC with the intention of removing restrictions when it is safe to do so and in accordance with their restrictions.
- In addition, the college is being asked to provide information on all international travel to the SUNY system. To do so, we expect that all members of the college community will share details of their international and domestic travel plans with the college. Please share your plans with Tom Carter (tecarter@esf.edu).
- Members of the college’s leadership team are working collaboratively to ensure that an emergency preparedness plan is ready to implement in the event of confirmed cases in Onondaga County or at any SUNY-ESF campus.
- The team is communicating on a daily basis with local, state and federal partners, including the Onondaga County Health Department, the New York State Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization (WHO), as we continue to monitor this rapidly evolving situation.

To learn more about the COVID-19, please visit the following resources:

- NYS Department of Health
- CDC
  www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html
- WHO
  https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

In addition, ESF will post updates and relevant information on our Covid-19 dedicated web page: https://www.esf.edu/coronavirus/

Sincerely,
Dave Amberg
Interim President