Dear Tuskegee University Community,

As you know, news of the spread of COVID-19, commonly referred to as the coronavirus, is a growing concern for all of us. While there are no confirmed cases of the disease anywhere in Alabama, the timing of our spring break along with the announcement of new cases throughout the United States underscores the seriousness with which we need to take this emerging health situation.

Today, the university has launched www.tuskegee.edu/coronavirus, an online resource for students, parents, employees and our community partners. This site will be updated regularly and informed by the activities of our newly convened Community Health Task Force. Task force members are charged with coordinating with county, state and federal agencies; continuing to follow recommendations from the CDC and the Alabama Department of Public Health; monitoring the status of the coronavirus; and implementing best practices to ensure our campus’ overall health during this time.

The most important considerations for you as we approach a busy spring break travel season is being aware of coronavirus symptoms and how to prevent the spread of the disease. Frequent hand washing with soap and water is the most effective way to prevent becoming infected — especially if your travels include mass transportation like airplanes, trains, buses and cruise ships.

As our coronavirus website indicates, the university is observing U.S. State Department and CDC travel restriction recommendations to limit risks to our students and employees. Please consult the website for additional information, as well as our Office of International Education and Development or your supervisor if you have concerns about how those restrictions might affect study abroad or professional travel during spring break or in the coming months.

Being aware of the symptoms and isolating yourself from others is the most effective way to avoid spreading the disease. If you are experiencing any of the coronavirus symptoms outlined on our website, please stay home or away from others, and contact your personal physician or the Macon County Health Department at 334.727.1800 for additional guidance. If your illness prevents you from attending classes or reporting for work, the university will work with faculty, deans and supervisors to provide accommodations.

Please have a safe, enjoyable and healthy spring break.

Sincerely,
Ruby Perry, DVM, PhD, DACVR
Acting President