Dear International Students and Scholars,

I know that many of you are preparing for Spring Break. Given the confirmed COVID-19 cases in Iran, Italy, Japan and South Korea the CDC and Department of State travel advisory warnings have changed. We want to make sure that you have the appropriate emergency contact information to make spring break plans that may include international travel.

We urge faculty, staff, and students who have personal or professional plans to travel either internationally or to affected areas in the U.S. to reconsider their travel. In doing so, we ask each of you to take into account the possibility of travel delays, future quarantines, or prolonged self-isolation when returning from travel to the Tuskegee University and Tuskegee communities. The CDC maintains a Travel Information website related to COVID-19, and specifically recommends avoiding all nonessential travel to countries at Warning Level 3. Note that these ratings can change rapidly. It is possible that students carrying passports from countries with Department of State Level 4 or CDC Level 3 warnings may experience difficulties or delays.

Entry Restrictions
The entry restrictions for foreign nationals who were physically present in Mainland China during the 14-day period prior to their entry to the United States remain in effect. Please also note that there is a new entry restriction that applies to foreign nationals who were physically present within the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran) during the 14-day period preceding their entry or attempted entry into the United States. This entry restriction will be effective starting 5:00 p.m. eastern standard time on March 2, 2020. The new restriction does not apply to persons aboard a flight scheduled to arrive in the United States that departed prior to 5:00 p.m. eastern standard time on March 2, 2020.

Students who hold passports from countries with Department of State Level 4 or CDC Level 3 countries may want to consider preparing the materials below (electronically or on paper) to help navigate entry inspection at the U.S. Port of Entry and with airlines prior to boarding.

- I-94 Travel history and most recent I-94 (retrievable electronically from https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94)
- Class Schedule
- Previous entry and exit stamps in your passport (review these and know where to find your most recent exit and entry stamps)
- Printout of your travel itinerary showing no travel to China or Iran within the last 14 days
- Copy of your hotel reservation for your trip

Self-isolation Protocols
As a reminder, Tuskegee University is instructing all community members returning to the United States from mainland China, South Korea, Iran and Italy to self-isolate for 14 days. Any individual who may have been in contact with someone who has been infected by COVID-19 or who exhibits symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection should also self-isolate. Health authorities are advising that people returning from areas affected by the new coronavirus self-isolate.
What is the difference between self-isolation and being put in quarantine?
Self-isolation is a sort of voluntary quarantine, where people have to make their own arrangements.

What are people who are self-isolating expected to do?
They are expected to stay at home, and certainly not go to work or college. It has been described by public health officials as taking the same measures you would if you had a heavy cold – although perhaps the better comparison would be the flu. The key thing is not to go near other people, to avoid spreading the virus, which is transmitted via droplets from coughs and sneezes. The virus is most likely to be transmitted in close quarters. If people are returning to family from an affected area, the others may want to keep their distance as much as they can – or self-isolate as well.

Can I go to the shops to get food?
People are advised to arrange food deliveries to their homes.

Should we panic?
No. The spread of the virus outside China is worrying but not an unexpected development. The key issues are how transmissible this new coronavirus is between people, and what proportion become severely ill and end up in hospital. Often viruses that spread easily tend to have a milder impact. Generally, the coronavirus appears to be hitting older people hardest, with few cases in children. More data on the Coronavirus will become clear as testing measures increase.

What should I do if they feel unwell?
They should not go to a doctor’s surgery or medical facility, where they risk infecting other people, some of whom may be very vulnerable because they have health problems. They should stay home and call for advice. If experiencing symptoms, call the Macon County Health Department at (334) 727-1800 or contact your private physician.

The self-isolation guidance may change quickly, so please stay informed. For additional information on how to gauge your risk of COVID-19 infection, see the CDC website: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/risk-assessment.html. The university will work with students to minimize disruptions to their academic progress during the isolation period.

We recognize the uncertainty this global health issue is creating and are committed to keep you informed and up to date as this situation evolves. Please travel safely and take the necessary precautions to ensure your personal health and wellness.

The map below, provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shows the areas where coronavirus is the most prevalent.
Geographic Areas with Sustained Transmission (Community or Widespread)
Last updated February 28, 2020

- China (Level 3 Travel Health Notice)
- Iran (Level 3 Travel Health Notice)
- Italy (Level 3 Travel Health Notice)
- Japan (Level 2 Travel Health Notice)
- South Korea (Level 3 Travel Health Notice)

Also, if you are traveling to any of the states highlighted below with confirmed cases, please communicate your travel plans to student health services. **Map as of 03/03/2020**

Additional Information