



Dear UNE Community,

I am writing with an update related to the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19. This week, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided updated information and guidance about the outbreak. There are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Maine. While the risk to the general American public remains low, the CDC is preparing for the potential of more widespread illness in the U.S.

The University is following CDC and Maine CDC guidance in preparing for the potential outbreak in the U.S. and in Maine. University officials are meeting regularly to ensure that we have proper plans in place for all three of our campuses (Biddeford, Portland, and Morocco) as well as for our students who are studying abroad in other locations.

Regardless of where you work or study, we are recommending common preventative measures to avoid the spread of illness, including the more common influenza virus and COVID-19:

- If you are ill, do not attend classes, work, or University events. You should stay home except when seeking medical care and should avoid contact with others.
- Cover your mouth or nose with a tissue or your shirtsleeves — not your hands — when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

If you have upcoming travel plans, be aware of the risks in the region you are traveling. You can find travel advisories by country through the Department of State's website: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/>

The University will continue to monitor this situation closely, and will provide updates as needed at www.une.edu/alerts. There, you will also find links to the CDC and World Health Organization websites, which provide regular updates and useful information.

Sincerely,

Paul Berkner, D.O., FAAP
Medical Director, Student Health Services