

St. Mary's University – San Antonio, Texas

Emergency Notifications

Last updated March 11, 2020

Dear St. Mary's University community,

To provide you with important, reliable and timely updates about the new coronavirus, COVID-19, St. Mary's University has created this emergency updates webpage as the primary source of information for the University community. This webpage will be updated daily as new information becomes available.

Coronavirus COVID-19

Updated March 11, 2020, 3:20 p.m.

To help ensure the health and safety of our campus community, St. Mary's University is extending spring break by one week for students. The campus remains open, and faculty and staff will continue campus operations. Classes will resume on campus on Monday, March 23, 2020.

St. Mary's faculty, who uniformly deliver in-person instruction, will use the week of March 16 to prepare for the possibility of delivering effective online instruction. This time will also allow others to ensure the delivery of all University services in the safest way.

At this time, there are no confirmed or suspected cases of the coronavirus among the St. Mary's community. However, students (resident and nonresident) are encouraged to remain at their permanent residence during the extended break. The University is discouraging students from returning to campus unless necessary to gather essential items, such as computers and study materials, until classes resume on March 23. If remaining off-campus for the extended break is not an option, please contact the Office of Residence Life by calling 210-431-4312 or emailing reslife@stmarytx.edu (<mailto:reslife@stmarytx.edu>).

Students living on campus will receive further guidance from the Office of Residence Life. The Office of the Provost will communicate with faculty about preparations for alternative course delivery methods, including training opportunities. Check your St. Mary's email for additional instructions.

Students will be excused from activities and student-work responsibilities during the extended break.

All other events scheduled for next week will be held unless notified otherwise.

There are no plans at this time to suspend classes beyond Friday, March 20, 2020.

The St. Mary's Critical Incident Response Team has been meeting daily to monitor the rapidly evolving situation and identify necessary steps to safeguard our campus community.

Please keep in mind that all critical and important information and notifications will be posted on the St. Mary's website, and distributed through the University's email system and/or RAVE Alert System.

More information about COVID-19 is available at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>). For the most up-to-date information about the virus in Texas, please visit the State Department of Health's coronavirus (<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>) webpage, which has information in English and Spanish.

University-Sponsored Travel

Spring Break University-Sponsored Trips

As of March 6, the University has canceled international spring break trips as a step to safeguard the students, faculty and staff traveling and avoid the likely challenges associated with crossing international borders and being quarantined, especially at this time.

St. Mary's has suspended University-sponsored or supported student, faculty and staff travel to countries with a CDC Level 2 or 3 Travel Warning (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>).

The University will continue monitoring and assessing all University-sponsored travel, international and domestic.

University-Sponsored Essential Travel

As of March 2, the University has stopped approving any new nonessential University-sponsored travel. If travel is essential, faculty and staff need the approval of their supervising member on the Leadership Council (<https://www.stmarytx.edu/about/leadership/>) before making any arrangements.

Personal International Travel

St. Mary's strongly discourages personal travel to countries with a CDC Level 2 or 3 Travel Warning (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>). Due to the coronavirus, if you do travel internationally, the University has new travel requirements for all faculty, staff and students, beginning immediately and until further notice.

- All individuals visiting countries under CDC Levels 2 and 3 travel restrictions, upon leaving or returning, are required to undergo a 14-day self-isolation (off-campus) period before returning to campus and to self-report. Also, avoid interaction with other members of the campus community during the isolation period.
- During the 14 days of self-isolation, students should contact the Student Health Center by phone at 210-436-3506 for updated guidance and requirements before returning to school or work. Employees should self-report by calling the Office of Human Resources at 210-210-436-3725.
- All individuals traveling internationally, including to Mexico, are required to report your travel by filling out this brief online form (http://stmarys.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eJz4u6JG0rvYlqV).

- St. Mary's University will not provide reentry assistance for any personal travel.

If you were on a cruise in the past 14 days:

- Monitor your health and limit interactions with others for 14 days after returning to the United States.
 - If a case of COVID-19 was reported on your ship during the cruise, stay home during these 14 days and practice social distancing.

Report International Travel Here

(http://stmarys.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eJz4u6JG0rvYIqV)

All Travel

All travelers are encouraged to check the CDC's [COVID-19 travel page](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>), U.S. Department of State [travel advisories](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html) (<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>), and the International Air Transport Association's [list of travel and entry restrictions](https://www.iatatravelcentre.com/international-travel-document-news/1580226297.htm) (<https://www.iatatravelcentre.com/international-travel-document-news/1580226297.htm>) for the latest information before departing.

Important information includes:

- St. Mary's discourages both domestic and international travel to locations with multiple community-transmitted confirmed cases.
- Know that if you leave the country, your trip may affect your ability to return to the United States and campus.
- Travelers should consider how their planned trips may affect their ability to return to the United States and campus. Consider purchasing trip cancellation insurance in case a last-minute change is needed.
- Travelers should allow for additional time for airport screening measures, which generally include temperature checks and questionnaires, and should follow directives from authorities.
- No one should travel while sick. Traveling while ill may result in additional screening measures, potential entry denial and quarantine. Anyone who is sick risks spreading germs and infection to others.

COVID-19 Symptoms

While members of our community typically experience illness and flu-like symptoms this time of year, COVID-19 can only develop if exposed to a COVID-19 carrier. If you are feeling unwell, take the normal recommended precautions. The symptoms associated with the novel coronavirus infection include a fever of 100.4 F (38 C) or higher, a dry cough and shortness of breath. Symptoms may appear two to 14 days after exposure. At this time, only people who are seriously ill are candidates for COVID-19 testing.

Students should complete the St. Mary's University [COVID-19 Illness Student Self-Reporting Form](https://gateway.stmarytx.edu/group/mycampus/illness-reporting) (<https://gateway.stmarytx.edu/group/mycampus/illness-reporting>) if they have:

- Symptoms (fever of 100.4 F or higher, cough and/or shortness of breath), AND
- Have been in close contact with an individual that is confirmed positive for COVID-19; AND/OR
- Traveled to a high-risk location that has multiple community-transmitted confirmed cases

COVID-19 Illness Self-Reporting Form for students (<https://gateway.stmarytx.edu/group/mycampus/illness-reporting>)

For additional questions, students can call the Student Health Center at 210-436-3506

If you are a member of the faculty and staff experiencing flu-like symptoms, stay at home and contact your health care provider.

Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>) for additional information about the coronavirus and influenza.

COVID-19 Prevention

Everyone should follow the same general precautions recommended during flu seasons, avoid contact with people who are sick and stay home if you have a respiratory illness or a fever. The steps below are the current recommendations by the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>) and the Texas Department of State Health Services (<https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>) to help limit the spread of viruses including the flu and common cold.

- Get a flu shot. Flu vaccines are available to students at the Student Health Center (<https://www.stmarytx.edu/campuslife/student-services/health-center/>). Call 210-436-3506 for an appointment or for more information.
- Wash your hands frequently using soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cover your cough or sneeze. Toss used tissues in a wastebasket and wash your hands afterward.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Limit handshaking.
- Wipe down exercise equipment, doorknobs, keyboards, telephone handles, etc., on a frequent basis throughout the day with disinfectant wipes or sprays.

You can also download the [prevention flyer](https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/uploadedImages/Content/Consumer_and_External_Affairs/coronavirus/social/DSHS-COVID19-Prevention-FB-IG.png) (https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/uploadedImages/Content/Consumer_and_External_Affairs/coronavirus/social/DSHS-COVID19-Prevention-FB-IG.png) from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

(https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/uploadedImages/Content/Consumer_and_External_Affairs/coronavirus/social/DSHS-COVID19-Prevention-FB-IG.png)

Support and Resources

Here are several resources available to community members year-round:

- As a reminder, St. Mary's has resources to support the mental, emotional and physical well-being of our campus community. Please remember that St. Mary's University offers multiple services and resources in support of the community during this time of need.
- The **Student Counseling Center** (<https://t.e2ma.net/click/ze4qde/fnpp6l/v3snxab>) offers free, confidential counseling for all enrolled students. The Center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and takes walk-in appointments for students in the [Center for Life Directions Building](https://map.concept3d.com/?id=574#!m/58345) (<https://map.concept3d.com/?id=574#!m/58345>). A counselor on duty is also available 24 hours a day via phone at 210-825-3622.
- **University Ministry** (<https://t.e2ma.net/click/ze4qde/fnpp6l/bwtinxab>) provides pastoral care, chaplaincy services, prayer support, faith formation, and referrals to campus and community resources. The campus community can seek comfort and prayer at the mid-day Masses in Assumption Chapel.
- University employees may access support through the Human Resources Office and the University's Employee Assistance Program. You can contact Human Resources at 210-436-3725 or our Employee Assistance Program at 1-888-238-6232.
- If you are concerned about a student, please contact the Office of the Dean of Students at deanofstudents@stmarytx.edu (<mailto:deanofstudents@stmarytx.edu>) or call 210-436-3331.

Contact

[210-436-3011 \(tel:210-436-3011\)](tel:210-436-3011) [One Camino Santa Maria](#)
[San Antonio, TX 78228 \(/map/\)](#)