The University of Massachusetts is closely monitoring developments in regards to COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offer the best source of up-to-date guidance and recommendations on all aspects of this dynamic and fluid situation.

Out of an abundance of caution and given the recommendations of the Baker Administration, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and the CDC:

-- University-organized international trips for student groups are canceled until further notice.

-- University-approved travel for faculty and staff to CDC Level 3 countries (currently CHINA, SOUTH KOREA, IRAN, and ITALY) is banned until further notice.

-- Requests for university-approved travel to Level 2 countries (currently JAPAN) are discouraged, and will require case-by-case approval.

All travelers should recognize that they may have difficulty returning to the U.S. and/or with securing adequate health care at international destinations. Per the CDC, travelers from a Level 3 country are required to remain off-campus or off-site for 14 days after their return or after any symptoms subside.
Dear UMass Boston community,

Per the message above, any student, faculty, or staff member who has traveled abroad and is returning from a Level 3 country is required to remain off-campus and self-quarantine for 14 days after their return or after any symptoms subside.

Any student, faculty, or staff member who is affected should contact their local health authority for more information about best-practice self-quarantine procedures.

Students affected by these quarantine instructions should contact University Health Services Executive Director Robert Pomales and should consult with their instructors, if applicable, to arrange to continue to receive course materials and to do coursework remotely.

Faculty and staff affected by these quarantine instructions should submit documents confirming their return from a Level 3 country to Human Resources immediately and consult with their department chair or supervisor, respectively, to determine if work from home is possible. If the university determines that work from home is not an option, the faculty or staff member will receive regular pay and benefits for the 14 day period and will not be required to use accrued time.

For any health-related questions, I encourage students to call University Health Services at 617.287.5660 and faculty/staff to call their health care provider.

This continues to be a fluid situation, and university guidelines may continue to evolve. We will provide further updates to our community. Updates and resources can be found on the UHS website.

Sincerely,

Interim Chancellor
Katherine Newman