

February 28, 2020

Dear Creighton students studying in Italy:

This evening the [US Department of State](#) and the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control](#) elevated that travel alerts for Italy to **Level 3: Reconsider Travel / Avoid Non-Essential Travel** due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in the northern provinces. This is a precautionary measure intended to alert citizens to take additional preventive measures.

Creighton University's [Policy: Travel: Domestic and International \(No. 2.1.33\)](#) specifies that programs to countries with such warnings must be cut short and travelers in those locations must be directed to return to the U.S. as soon as possible. The main purpose of this policy is to support your safety and well-being, which may become more difficult to do as the local healthcare system becomes stressed.

Therefore, at this time we request that you make plans for your immediate return to the US.

We have been in touch with your host institution, and know they are making plans to support your completion of courses in a distance format. We are very grateful to them for making that accommodation during this challenging time.

As you prepare to depart Italy please take the following steps:

1. Indicate to your airline that you are being directed to return to the US due to a request from your university. In most cases airlines have waived the ticket change fee. If they do not waive the fee, please keep the receipt so you can submit it to the supplemental travel insurance. If you are charged a fee, submit a claim with the supplemental traveler insurance (you must use your own account number and instructions provided in your registration letter).
2. Make contact with the local program leaders so they are apprised of your departure plans. Follow all checking-out procedures for your host institution.
3. Write to each of your professors to obtain any final grades, assignments, and to arrange distance completion of coursework (if possible).
4. Obtain a copy (official or unofficial) of your overseas transcript.
5. Once you have made your flight arrangements, please send your itinerary to Lizzy Curran, Global Programs Coordinator at LizzyCurran@creighton.edu so we can begin coordinating your return to campus. Please indicate the following to the best of your ability:
 1. Will you be able to complete all your coursework through your host institution? If no, which courses may be left incomplete? (We can begin coordinating with your College to see if there are alternatives at Creighton).
 2. Will you be hoping to return to a student residence on campus?
6. Make sure you communicate the change of plans to your family and/or emergency contact. They rely on hearing updates from you.

Before you return to campus, and by recommendation of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, please follow the directions to complete their **COVID-19 SURVEY for Contacts/Travelers From High Risk Countries**. When you complete that survey someone from the public health service will be able to contact you and provide individualized guidance. Instructions for completion of this survey and the required **ATTESTATION FORM** are available at <http://www.creighton.edu/geo/coronavirus/>.

Once we have received your signed **Attestation Form** you may make a check-in appointment with a Global Programs Coordinator to make sure that all loose ends are tied. Contact information for the Global Programs Coordinators is available [HERE](#).

Please continue to observe recommended precautions for travelers while in Italy and upon your return. Many countries including the U.S. have implemented health screening procedures at airports. We encourage all students traveling to follow the health and safety guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO):

- Frequently clean hands by using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water. When coughing and sneezing cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue – throw tissue away immediately and wash hands.
- Avoid close contact with anyone who has fever and cough.
- If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing seek medical care early and share previous travel history with your health care provider.
- When visiting live markets in areas currently experiencing cases of novel coronavirus, avoid direct unprotected contact with live animals and surfaces in contact with animals.
- The consumption of raw or undercooked animal products should be avoided. Raw meat, milk or animal organs should be handled with care, to avoid cross-contamination with uncooked foods, as per good food safety practices.

We can certainly imagine you will be disappointed that you were not able to complete the semester in Italy as you had hoped. We are grateful that you are able to return to the US, and our prayers go out in concern and solidarity for the people left behind in Italy and across the globe who are sick with the Coronavirus.

The Global Engagement Office stands ready to provide all the assistance we can. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Travel safe.

Dr. Padilla
Vice Provost for Global Engagement
Creighton University