Take Steps to Keep Our Campus and Community Healthy

To: the UW community

From: UW Student Health Service

The UW Student Health Service welcomes all new and returning students to campus for the spring 2020 semester! We would like to assure our campus community that we, along with the UW administration, are monitoring the novel coronavirus situation via the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) communications, as well as the Wyoming Department of Health. The Student Health Service is asking all students who present for care about recent international travel history, regardless of the reason for their appointment, and will further screen for 2019 novel coronavirus risk as appropriate.

Additionally, we ask ALL students who seek care at the Student Health Service (regardless of travel history) who are ill with fever and respiratory symptoms put on a surgical mask immediately upon arrival at the clinic to help prevent the spread of cold, flu and other illnesses to fellow students and health center staff. Mask and hand sanitizer stations are located near the clinic entrance and throughout the clinic. We ask any students coming to the Student Health Service with concern for possible 2019 novel coronavirus infection to call ahead (307-766-2130) to alert staff of your impending arrival, and put on a surgical mask immediately upon arriving at the clinic. Faculty, staff members and students who are not eligible to utilize the Student Health Service and have symptoms of concern should contact their primary care providers or local urgent care clinic to discuss symptoms and travel history. Eligibility requirements for visits at SHS are found here: www.uwyo.edu/shser/eligibility.html

To date, there are no reported cases of the 2019 novel coronavirus in Wyoming, but it is important for our campus community to be aware of this emerging global health concern and understand that this is a rapidly evolving situation.

The CDC’s Coronavirus alert and the routinely updated Situation Summary are the best sources of current information. While the immediate health risk to the American public due to the 2019 novel coronavirus is considered low, we would like to encourage everyone to help keep our campus and community healthy.

For some perspective, as of Jan. 28, there have been over 4,500 confirmed cases of the 2019 coronavirus identified worldwide (five confirmed in the U.S.) and 106 deaths (none in the U.S.). However, we are in the midst of flu and respiratory illness season, and preliminary estimates from the CDC are that from Oct. 1 through Jan. 18, there have been 15 million-21 million cases of influenza and 8,200-20,000 flu-related deaths in the U.S. alone. Therefore, the CDC
recommends getting a seasonal influenza vaccine annually and **taking everyday preventive actions to stop the spread of germs**.

The UW Student Health Service currently has a few remaining flu vaccines, which are available to eligible students for $20 (the cost is covered for those with the UW-sponsored student medical insurance). No appointment is necessary to receive a flu vaccine. Additionally, the UW Pharmacy (located within the Student Health Service) has flu vaccines available to students AND faculty/staff, and the cost can be billed to many insurance plans. Most people can also receive a flu vaccine at many off-campus pharmacies and private clinics, but we encourage you to call ahead to ensure availability.