March 2, 2020 -- University of Wyoming officials continue to closely monitor the worldwide developments pertaining to the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

An interdepartmental UW task force is reviewing current measures to prepare for possible virus outbreaks and options to address various scenarios in the future. At present, the risk to UW students of contracting the COVID-19 virus and developing serious or life-threatening complications still remains low.

The priority focus of campus leadership is the health and safety of our campus community; minimization of disruption to course delivery; and rapid coordinated response to situations that may develop internally and externally as a result of the COVID-19 virus spread. Proactive measures being taken or considered at this time include:

-- Evaluation of international program travel, with some cancellations or postponements depending on the destination and timing.

-- Preparation of detailed pre-travel safety consideration briefings for students in advance of spring break.

-- Identification of residence hall quarantine areas to use if needed.

-- Review of planned conferences and events, either hosted at UW or elsewhere, to include a risk assessment for COVID-19 exposure.

-- Development/update of alternative course delivery methods (continuity of instruction plans) to exercise should face-to-face instruction be curtailed.

-- Emphasis on requirement for all UW official travelers to register their travel outside of the state of Wyoming with Risk Management.

-- Rehearsals in concept with local health care providers to talk through patient handling steps and treatment room decontamination protocols when caring for patients possibly infected with COVID-19.

-- Emphasis throughout the campus community of sound personal hygiene and sanitation measures that are proven to limit the spread of infectious diseases.

The university will remain vigilant and is poised to adjust its response measures appropriately as the COVID-19 threat level increases or decreases in the coming weeks and months.

Helpful links:
UW Student Health Service COVID-19 Page

WYO Department of Health Site

Guidance for Student Foreign Travel for Institutions of Higher Learning (CDC)

World Health Organization “Getting Your Workplace Ready for COVID-19”

How Does the Coronavirus Compare With the Flu? The New York Times

Five things you can do now to get ready for an outbreak. By Kelsey Piper, Feb 28, 2020