



March 6, 2020

Dear CDU Family,

As you are doubtless aware, the spread of the coronavirus has become a worldwide phenomenon. The World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and local health agencies are working around the clock to collect data and assess this rapidly-evolving situation.

While there have been cases of coronavirus announced in Los Angeles County, public health officials are urging caution—but not panic. At CDU, a health professions university with a strong interest in public health, we believe this is a prudent and reasonable approach.

Since it has been shown that public health measures can successfully mitigate the spread of a community-transmitted illness such as the coronavirus, we can pursue our own public health measures here on campus. These include:

- Hand washing
- Avoiding hand-to-face contact
- Coughing or sneezing into the inside of your elbow
- Discouraging hand-shaking (bump elbows instead)
- Remaining at home if symptomatic

Following the lead of public health agencies, we are NOT encouraging people to wear masks, as they have not been proven to prevent acquiring the virus.

Since one of the public health measures being discussed—and being implemented by some organizations—is a restriction on meetings and larger public gatherings, sometimes called “social distancing,” we are currently evaluating if and how CDU might apply this to University operations. One decision we have already made, in order to take a responsible leadership position on this issue, is to cancel this year’s Spring Gala. We feel this is a small sacrifice for the greater public health good.

There will be additional communications on this topic as the situation proceeds.

Dr. David M. Carlisle, President/CEO
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science