

## Important Updates Regarding Coronavirus Travel

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Dear University Community,

Given recent updates related to the coronavirus (COVID-19), University travel restrictions have been updated to include the suspension of University-sponsored domestic travel. The University is also requesting individuals who have planned personal travel over Spring Break to register their travel plans via these links in case the University needs to reach you:

- Faculty and Staff: <https://forms.usm.edu/provost/view.php?id=169392>
- Students: <https://forms.usm.edu/provost/view.php?id=169740>

Please review complete details on the Office of the Provost's webpage at [usm.edu/provost/coronavirus](https://usm.edu/provost/coronavirus).

Steven R. Moser, Ph.D.  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dee Dee Anderson, Ed.D.  
Vice President for Student Affairs

### March 9<sup>th</sup> Update from Provost Website

The University is providing significantly updated travel guidance to our community due to the continued spread of COVID-19. The following guidance is in effect until further notice.

#### **International Travel – University-sponsored**

**We are suspending all University-sponsored international travel, to any country—regardless of mode of transportation.** This limitation encourages social distancing and reduces USM's contribution to the potential spread of infection to other areas, in support of global public health. We realize the impacts may include cancelled trips, the window of time that research can be done, and for some researchers, the contractual obligation to complete projects involving international travel. To mitigate the above, an exception may be granted by a dean, vice president or the provost. However, the traveler must understand that given the rapidly changing situation there is a chance that USM's self-isolation requirement for 14 days upon return from countries with CDC Level 3 travel health restrictions may be expanded to additional countries, and that there may be air or governmental restrictions on return that are beyond USM's ability to control.

**Note: No authorization will be granted for undergraduate student University-sponsored international travel.**

## **International Travel – Personal**

**We strongly recommend against personal travel out of the country.** If you do undertake such travel, you must understand there is a chance that there may be a self-isolation requirement for 14 days upon return as well as the fact that there may be air or governmental restrictions on return that are beyond USM's ability to control.

## **Domestic Travel – University-sponsored**

**We are suspending all University-sponsored domestic travel (regardless of mode of transportation)** to reduce USM's contribution to the potential spread of infection to Mississippi. Travel between USM sites is exempt from this suspension. We encourage finding alternate means of conducting business. We realize the impacts may include cancelled trips, the window of time that research can be done, and for some researchers, the contractual obligation to complete projects involving domestic travel. To mitigate the above, an exception may be granted by a dean, vice president or the provost. However, the traveler must understand that given the rapidly changing situation there is a chance that USM's self-isolation requirement for 14 days upon return to campus with CDC Level 2 travel health restrictions may be expanded to additional states, and that there may be air or governmental restrictions on return that are beyond USM's ability to control.

Note: With the exception of student athletes, no authorization will be granted for undergraduate student University-sponsored domestic travel.

## **Domestic Travel – Personal**

Residence halls will remain open over spring break for on-campus students. Faculty and staff as well as students should consider their own health status and other reports before making plans for personal domestic travel, recognizing that the status of COVID-19 infection in the United States continues to change. The possibility of a 14-day self-isolation requirement also exists for domestic travel, given the rapidly changing circumstances. **We request anyone who is planning personal travel to register with the University.**

**[REGISTER PERSONAL TRAVEL \(FAC/STAFF\)](#)**

**[REGISTER PERSONAL TRAVEL \(STUDENT\)](#)**