

From: [Bijelic, George](#)
To: d-fhsgradadmin@mcmaster.ca; d-fhsgrdprghead@mcmaster.ca
Subject: Coronavirus and McMaster Faculty of Health Sciences students
Date: January 30, 2020 4:25:35 PM

Good afternoon,

Please distribute the message below to all students in your programs.

Thank you,
George

Manager

Health Sciences Graduate Studies

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If you have an accommodation need for a planned meeting, please e-mail me directly and I will do my best to make appropriate arrangements. Should you require any materials sent via this e-mail address in an alternate/accessible format, please let me know.

Sent on behalf of Dr. Paul O'Byrne:

Jan. 30, 2020

This message is for all Faculty of Health Sciences students:

There has been quite a bit in the news about the coronavirus. At this time this is not a crisis in Canada, although the situation is dynamic.

McMaster University and our hospital and healthcare partners are aware of the situation, and are staying current on its developments. McMaster is following the direction of the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Public Health Services of Hamilton.

McMaster's official voice on the situation will always be found on its Daily News website:
<https://dailynews.mcmaster.ca/articles/coronavirus-update/>

There have been specific questions about the role of students who are or will be on clinical placements in hospitals and healthcare settings, or students who are not in direct contact with patients but are studying or working in hospital or healthcare settings.

Postgraduate learners (residents and fellows) should take direction from their respective hospitals.

Other health professional students, including clinical clerks and students of nursing, midwifery,

physician assistant, or the programs of the School of Rehabilitation Science, who are or will be on clinical placements should make themselves aware and follow the direction of that hospital or clinical placement.

Otherwise, all students including those working within hospital or health care settings but not involved with patients or the public should follow public health directions on how to stay healthy by washing hands frequently and practicing proper cough and sneezing etiquette.

If you have any questions regarding the situation, please check with your program.

Regarding travel, as of Jan. 29, 2020, the Government of Canada issued a travel advisory to avoid non-essential travel to China and avoid all travel to the Chinese province of Hubei due to the travel restrictions and quarantines. McMaster policy is that while this travel advisory is in effect, no undergraduate students may travel to China. Any graduate student who does want to travel to China for reasons related to McMaster must have the specific approval of the provost (provost@mcmaster.ca) or the vice-provost of international affairs (ypi@mcmaster.ca).

There is no current restriction on people coming to McMaster.

References:

- [McMaster University Daily News coronavirus information page](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada coronavirus information pages](#)
- [Public Health Ontario coronavirus information page](#)
- [Global Affairs Canada travel recommendations](#)
- [Statement by Foreign Affairs Minister on travel to Hubei Province](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)

Thank you.