

Dear faculty, staff, and students:

As a Calvin community, we are well aware of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak that continues to evolve and affect a growing number of people around the world. I encourage you to join me in praying for those most affected by this outbreak, including the families and friends of our students who live in close proximity to the high-risk regions around the world.

As of this morning, there are still no cases identified at Calvin or in Michigan. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) acknowledged this week that they think it is likely that more cases will emerge in the United States in the coming weeks, and they have encouraged colleges and universities to be prepared. No one can be certain about the scope of the infection in the United States, but we are taking this possibility seriously at Calvin. We anticipate situations like this in our emergency planning, and a working group of staff, faculty, and administrators have been closely monitoring the situation for several weeks now. We have and will continue to take proper precaution and heed the advice of our local and state health officials and leading global health organizations as we prepare for the possible impact.

One of the current recommendations from CDC is that we keep a close record of travel to and from areas that are defined as high-risk regions. This list continues to evolve, and currently includes Iran, Italy, Japan, China, and South Korea. If you have traveled to any of these countries over the past two weeks, come in close contact with someone who has, or are planning travel to any of these areas in the near future, please report this using this [brief form](#). This is a small, but extremely important step as we seek to have good information and provide our community with proper guidance.

To that end, we will continue to update the Calvin community as new information becomes available and as the situation evolves. Our [Health Services website](#) will be updated on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings when updates are warranted. There, you will also find previous updates to the community, helpful links and resources, and frequently asked questions.

While we continue to monitor this situation, our cleaning staff are putting focused attention on regularly disinfecting surfaces to prevent illness and to mitigate the risk of potential spreading. Please join us in this preventative work by taking some simple, but important steps recommended by the CDC:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- Stay home if you are ill

Thank you for participating with us in these preventive measures. Please pray for protection for our community and for our neighbors near and far who are suffering because of this outbreak.

Sincerely,



Michael Le Roy  
President, Calvin University