

Guidance for Institutes of Higher Education with Students and Staff Returning from Areas at High Risk of COVID-19

The New York City Health Department offers the following guidance as of March 2, 2020, for institutes of higher education operating in NYC in accordance with the [New York State Department of Health's travel-related considerations for institutes of higher education](#).

1. This guidance applies to all students and staff arriving in New York City within 14 days of spending time in an area with ongoing spread of coronavirus.
2. The NYC Health Department recommends
 - a. Suspending study abroad programs for all university/college students and staff in currently affected areas
 - b. Developing plans to suspend programs in all other countries, regardless of whether they are currently designated as travel alert areas by CDC
 - c. Requiring students and faculty returning from currently affected countries to self-monitor their health at home for 14 days after leaving an affected area. Refer to the [NYC Health Department Guidance for College and University for more information](#).
 - i. Providing an alternative location if a school can identify a single room with a private bathroom and if they can support the student or staff needs during quarantine such as food and other necessities
 - ii. If neither of the options are available, identify alternative mechanisms for housing.
 1. Creating a plan should a student(s) be housed in dormitory or shared housing and develop symptoms of COVID-19 to be able to immediately self-isolate in a pre-determined location, and notify a pre-identified person using a dedicated phone number.
 - d. Maintaining a list of students that can be shared with the NYC Health Department upon request.
 - e. At this time only those persons, excluding healthcare workers, who are considered close contacts (e.g., household contacts and intimate partners) and identified by public health will be instructed to self-monitor for 14 days.
 - f. *As the outbreak evolves so will guidance recommendations.*