



Colleagues –

I wanted to connect and express my appreciation for the flexibility and understanding you have all demonstrated during these extraordinary times.

For most of our staff, today we are settling into our ‘new normal’ of limited staffing. I have been impressed with the creativity and teamwork shown, which will ensure we can continue to fulfill our mission during these times.

The health and safety of our community continues to be our number one priority. North Dakota is still designated as a level-one risk state – we anticipate that will evolve and change very quickly, but our risk factors are currently lower than most other areas of the country. We continue to monitor current information and are planning for potential future scenarios – which will allow us to communicate and provide adequate support as the situation evolves. Also, please understand that if a confirmed case becomes present at either NDSCS location, federal law requires immediate notification to the College community.

As we continue to focus on keeping the community healthy - we are asking that any member of the NDSCS community – employee or student - who has recently traveled within the U.S. (beyond your local community) and/or internationally to complete the North Dakota Department of Health website screening form. [The form can be accessed by clicking here.](#)

If you have traveled in the U.S. to states with sustained community transmission and/or traveled internationally to countries with widespread transmission according to the CDC you **should self-quarantine**. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updates this information daily.

- To find the list of countries with widespread transmission, [click here](#).
- To find the list of states with sustained community transmission, [click to visit this CDC page](#). Below the U.S. map, click the States + bar to expand the state list; look under the ‘Community Transmission’ column for states marked Yes.

Information related to travel has also been added to the NDSCS COVID-19 webpage and will be shared with students who may be returning from spring break travel. As of right now, very few students are on campus for spring break and only a few more are planning to return to their on-campus residence during the distance and online learning weeks. However, for those students on-campus dining plans are being honored and students are able to access computers/other technology as needed. This information is being directly communicated with students.

Please continue to refer to [ndscs.edu/COVID-19](https://ndscs.edu/COVID-19) webpage for current information.

Again, thank you for staying positive and solution-focused - We all should be very proud to be a Wildcat!

John Richman, Ph.D.  
President | North Dakota State College of Science