

January 30, 2020

Dear traveler,

The MSU committees charged with International Health and Safety reviews of students and of faculty/staff/guests (RSAC and FASTR, respectively) met jointly today to review available information on the coronavirus. As you know, this information is rapidly changing. The two committees reviewed the available scientific data, the public health recommendations, and the current locations of MSU international travelers. The committees strongly recommend (and I concur) that all students, faculty, staff and guests who are conducting official MSU business or studying in China return to the U.S. as soon as possible. This decision was made for the following reasons:

- The incidence of the coronavirus will continue to increase and likely will not stabilize until late March.
- Many services, including healthcare, transportation, food service, schools and air travel are being restricted.
- Air flights into and out of China are being reduced or cancelled by several carriers, and other carriers may implement similar restrictions.
- Our international evacuation policy does not cover evacuation that is prompted by epidemics or pandemics. Thus, getting out of China may become more difficult.

If travelers have trouble booking air travel out of China, they should contact the U.S. consulate for help if they are a U.S. citizen. If you are currently traveling in China please respond that you have received this message and update me on your plans to return.

Thank you and best wishes for a safe return.



Phillip M. Duxbury

Dean, College of Natural Science

cc: Chris Daniel, Director, ISP Office of International Health and Safety
Beth Alexander, Chair, Student Risk and Security Advisory Committee (RSAC)
DeAndra Beck, Chair, Faculty and Staff Travel Advisory Committee (FASTR)