



Appalachian School of Law

Statement on COVID-19 – Novel Coronavirus

March 10, 2020

The Appalachian School of Law, like all of you, is concerned about the presence of the novel coronavirus in the United States and abroad and its potential effect on students, families, employees, and community members. I write today to share the latest information we have and some decisions we have made to look out for the well-being of the ASL community.

To our knowledge there has not been a case of COVID-19, the illness caused by the novel coronavirus, at ASL or in southwestern Virginia, but the Virginia Department of Health has confirmed eight cases of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth. Tennessee and Kentucky have also reported cases. The immediate risk to the ASL community remains low. The situation, however, is rapidly evolving. Much remains unknown about the threats posed by COVID-19, and we take very seriously the responsibility to make prudent choices for the well-being of our community. The ASL administration continues to meet regularly to share information in real-time, consider changes in approach that will best protect our community, and set plans in motion for a wide variety of contingencies.

Consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United States Department of State, and the Virginia Department of Health, we have decided to enact the following restrictions and guidelines in order to help mitigate our community's risk of exposure to the virus:

All Students:

- ***If you are experiencing symptoms consistent with respiratory illness (fever, cough, sore throat, stuffy nose, shortness of breath, etc.) you should not come to campus.***
- If you stay home because you are experiencing symptoms, please contact the Associate Dean's office as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made to keep you up to date on classes and ensure that your absences are accounted for.

- Students attending classes and events on campus should practice heightened social distancing and health hygiene to the extent possible. The CDC has repeatedly advised that the most effective method of limiting the spread of disease is frequent handwashing.
- All travel abroad programs are cancelled until further notice.

Students Returning from Travel Abroad:

- Students returning to ASL following travel to a country for which the CDC has issued a level 2 or 3 travel advisory should self-quarantine for a period of 14 days from the date of reentering the United States and should not return to ASL until after the self-quarantine period. Currently, level 2 and 3 countries include China, Iran, South Korea, Japan, and Italy. Updated CDC travel advisories may be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

- If you have returned from a CDC level 2 or 3 country, please contact the Associate Dean's office for further information and so that arrangements can be made to keep you up to date on classes and ensure that your absences are accounted for.

Though it is not necessary at this time to suspend classes, move classes online, or make other dramatic changes to the methods of instruction at ASL, it is possible that these steps will need to be taken in the future. The faculty and administration will continue to develop plans to address any necessary changes to the program and communicate those plans to the ASL community.

Thank you,

Justice (ret.) Elizabeth A. McClanahan
Dean and CEO