Coronavirus and Summary of Proclamation of Suspension of Entry to the U.S., Jan 31, 2020, Feb 2, 2020

We recognize how stressful it is to hear about the Coronavirus every day in the news for the past few weeks. We share your worries and are concerned about our current and future students and their families who have been impacted. Yet, it is our duty to inform you of the following important updates pertaining to the outbreak:

The United States has taken two new measures to restrict travel into the U.S. from infected regions. The full details of the travel restrictions can be found here:

1. Proclamation on Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 2019 Novel Coronavirus

2. Notice of Arrival Restrictions Applicable to Flights Carrying Persons Who Have Recently Traveled from or were otherwise present within the People’s Republic of China.

Taken together, what do these measures mean?

The first proclamation prohibits certain nonimmigrants and immigrants from entering the United States. Specifically, travelers impacted are those who were physically present within the People’s Republic of China, excluding the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, during the 14-day period preceding their entry or attempted entry into the United States.

The second directive from the U.S. government routes all flights from China and all passengers who have traveled to China within the last 14 days through one of eleven U.S. airports. This rule became effective on Sunday, February 2nd, 2020, for flights departing after 5:00 PM Eastern.

In light of this, the ISSO offers the following recommendation:

Carefully consider your international travel plans. The International Student and Scholar Office urges all international students and scholars to think carefully before committing or arranging for overseas travel to avoid any complications upon returning to the United States.

The following resources/weblinks provide helpful information:

1. The U.S. Department of State
2. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
3. NAFSA Coronavirus Resources
4. Latest Coronavirus Immigration Restrictions & News