



College staff has been working diligently over the last 48 hours to address issues surrounding the recent coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The cabinet and other staff members met this morning to discuss the announcement of the first confirmed coronavirus case in Pottawattamie County and its impact on our campus.

We understand that several staff members and students had visited the local restaurant where the case was reported. County Health Department officials informed us this afternoon that anyone visiting the local restaurant where the case was reported should be in the clear if they visited the establishment prior to Saturday. If you have questions, please call the Pottawattamie County Health Department at 712-242-1155.

Iowa Western is utilizing both the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and county officials to monitor this growing community problem. This morning the cabinet discussed what plans need to be in place should a case be reported on our campus. Options include cancelling classes and a complete shutdown of the campus.

Vice presidents are working with directors and deans to develop a list of essential and non-essential employees that would need to mobilize in the event of a closure. More information is forthcoming in regards to those strategies.

Please do your part to limit the spread of this virus:

- Good hand washing with soap for at least 20 seconds. Particularly after going to the bathroom, before eating and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- Keeping hands away from nose, mouth and eyes.
- Avoiding direct contact with high touch areas like doorknobs and light switches.
- Avoiding close contact with sick people (recommended 6 feet away).
- Staying home when sick.

The administration also is working on a travel policy that will be released this week. We will continue to provide updates as needed with pertinent information regarding this outbreak.

I have attached a link to USA Today, which has been providing a daily "Coronavirus Watch" update. I have found the map of confirmed cases to be informative.

<https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/health/2020/03/05/coronavirus-us-cases-symptoms-travel-deaths-prepare/4904568002/>

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dan Kinney'.

Dr. Dan Kinney
President