



Message to Family

3-6-2020

1:47 p.m.

Sent from President Melby through Alumni and Family Relations Office to Parents/Families

[Message from President Melby on COVID-19 to parents](#)

Dear Parent/Family Member of OLLU Student,

Although there is no immediate threat to any of the OLLU campuses from the coronavirus (Covid19), I want to share with you the steps the university has taken and will continue to take to deal with this situation.

A core group of university personnel are meeting daily to monitor the situation, address concerns and develop contingency and continuity plans. They are reviewing announcements and recommendations issued by federal, state and local authorities. In addition, a larger task force has been formed and assigned responsibilities involved with prevention and preparation.

The following are preventative steps the university has enacted:

- A web page has been created to share updates related to the coronavirus (COVID-19). It can be accessed at: <https://www.ollusa.edu/health-safety/emergency-preparedness/coronavirus-information/index.html>.
- University-sponsored student travel has been postponed to countries listed as Level 2 by the Centers for Disease Control.
- Holy Communion is only being distributed in the hand rather than on the tongue during Mass; the distribution of the Precious Blood at Mass has been temporarily discontinued; holy water fonts have been removed from the chapels; and shaking hands at the kiss of peace and holding hands during the Our Father has been temporarily discontinued.
- Posters outlining proper handwashing and other preventative steps have been placed in restrooms, and in high traffic areas throughout campus.
- Hand sanitizer stations have placed in high traffic areas around campus.
- Community members are being encouraged to get the flu shot. The OLLU Health Services Office has a limited number of flu shots available. Note: The flu shot will not prevent Covid19 but can prevent other illness that will weaken the immune system.
- All community members have been asked not to come to work or attend class if feeling ill; the OLLU Health Services Office can assist students who are feeling ill.

The following are contingency planning steps the university has enacted.

- Online course training is being provided to all faculty so they are prepared to move courses to

an online format if it becomes necessary.

- Online tools also are available for nonessential support staff so they can work remotely, if necessary.
- All community members have been reminded to update contact information and emergency contact information within in university systems. Instructions for updating contact information are available online at www.ollusa.edu/alert.
- The following resources have been shared with the campus community:
 - [Summary of outbreak and response \(CDC\)](#)
 - [Information on symptoms, prevention, and treatment \(CDC\)](#)
 - [U.S. situation summary \(CDC\)](#)
 - [International Summary \(World Health Organization\)](#)
 - [Myth Busters \(World Health Organization\)](#)

If you have questions or concerns, please email the university core group at ert@ollusa.edu.

Thank you.

Diane E. Melby
Our Lady of the Lake University President