February 27, 2020

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students:

Recent news regarding the coronavirus, or COVID-19, has caused concern around the world. There are currently no cases in Arkansas. According to its website, the Arkansas Department of Health is monitoring 11 individuals. Contracting the virus is dependent on exposure, which means for most UAPB Stakeholders the risk for contracting the COVID-19 virus is low. However, COVID-19, like the flu, is something we should take seriously.

In partnership with the Arkansas Department of Health and the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences, the University of Arkansas System is closely monitoring the COVID-19 virus, influenza, and other respiratory viruses.

UAMS is also offering innovative 24/7 online access to UAMS health providers through UAMS HealthNow. With this service, people of all ages across the state can receive treatment for flu-like symptoms from your smartphone, computer or tablet without leaving home.

**There are three simple steps we can all take to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:**

1) Wash your hands frequently.
2) Get the flu vaccine if you haven’t already done so. It’s not too late.
3) If you become sick, stay at home and consult your physician.

Anyone planning to travel can check the World Health Organization’s website for daily updates. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also offers information and guides for travelers.

We ask that you please take precautions to avoid spreading respiratory illnesses like COVID-19. To that end, we ask that you review the attached guidance from the CDC.

UAPB will continue to monitor the situation and update you as information becomes available.

Sincerely,

Laurence B. Alexander, J.D., Ph.D.
Chancellor