March 6, 2020

Dear Cheverus Community,

If you have read a newspaper, scanned social media, checked the financial markets, or gone to the grocery store, you have seen the impact of the novel coronavirus also known as COVID-19. As of today, four states have declared emergencies related to COVID-19: California, Florida, Maryland, and Washington. At the start of the week, my letter emphasized preventative measures for all respiratory illnesses: good personal hygiene including hand-washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and staying home when sick. Government and health officials continue to support the effectiveness of these simple steps.

Over the past days and weeks, we have made the decision to cancel the cultural immersion trip to China, scheduled for this summer, our service immersion trip to Texas and our baseball team’s trip to Florida, both scheduled for April vacation. A final decision about our service immersion trip to South Dakota, scheduled for this summer, has not yet been made.

Noting that schools and school districts around the country are facing the possibility and even the reality of closing their doors, yesterday I met with our faculty to discuss how we might manage such a decision. We are looking to federal and state officials for guidance as we plan for this potential risk and create contingency plans.

Finally, as I mentioned in our faculty and staff meeting yesterday, I believe that it is of paramount importance as a Jesuit school that we be vigilant in addressing and confronting any careless, thoughtless, and/or xenophobic comments made by any members of our community in regards to this virus. Please join me in prayer for the victims of this virus, their families and their caregivers.

Peace,

John Moran