

Bacone College Covid-19 FAQ

Most recent update: February 27, 2020.

What do we currently know about the novel coronavirus?

The novel coronavirus (Covid-19) is a respiratory illness that first emerged in Wuhan, China in 2019. Although the virus has spread rapidly through China since its emergence, the general public in the U.S. is still considered at low risk for contracting Covid-19, according to the CDC.

The [CDC](#) has the most up-to-date public health and risk information.

Here at Bacone College, administration continues to closely monitor Covid-19.

Bacone College has an Emergency Preparedness Plan that outlines protocols to address Covid-19 in the event it should it appear among students, faculty, or staff on campus.

How dangerous is it?

Covid-19 currently has no treatment or vaccine, so its duration as a health crisis is still unknown. As with other respiratory illnesses, infection with Covid-19 can cause mild symptoms including a runny nose, sore throat, cough, and fever. It can be more severe for some and lead to pneumonia or breathing difficulties. The elderly and those with pre-existing medical conditions or compromised immune systems are more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with Covid-19 and have a higher risk for it to be life-threatening.

In comparison to this year's seasonal flu virus, the public health concern is lower for Covid-19. In the U.S. alone, the flu has already caused an estimated 19 million illnesses, 180,000 hospitalizations and 10,000 deaths this season, according to the CDC.

Are there confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Oklahoma?

To date, no cases have been confirmed in Oklahoma. The [WHO](#) (World Health Organization) provides an up-to-date visualization of the number of confirmed cases in the U.S. and globally. There have been no cases of novel Covid-19 at the college or in Muskogee County, and no one has been tested. If an individual from our area is confirmed to have Covid-19, the Muskogee County Health Department will issue a notice to the community, which would be communicated to Bacone College students, faculty, and staff.

Are there ways to prevent contracting the virus?

When it comes to preventing all viruses, including the flu, the following practical actions are recommended:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
 - Stay hydrated and get plenty of rest.
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick. And when you are sick, stay home.
 - Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
 - Get your flu vaccine—it's not too late to benefit from it. Students and other members of the Bacone College community should contact their primary care provider or visit pharmacies with onsite flu vaccinations, including CVS and Walgreens.
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Should I wear a mask?

The CDC does not currently recommend the use of face masks for the general public to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Can I still travel to China?

The U.S. Department of State has issued a **“Do Not Travel” advisory for China**. Most commercial flights into and out of China have been suspended. In addition, the CDC has issued **a level 3 travel warning for China**, indicating travelers should avoid all non-essential travel.

While individuals are strongly recommended not to undertake personal travel to China at this time, Bacone College does not regulate personal travel. Individuals choosing to travel on personal travel to China should be aware that they will do so at their own risk. Bacone College will likely be unable to assist them should the situation worsen.

I'm worried that I may be sick or might have been exposed to coronavirus. What should I do?

Please remain in your dorm room to avoid exposing others to a possible illness. Immediately contact Kaila Harjo via **email** or **text message** at harjok@bacone.edu or 918-360-7771. You will also be directed to immediately contact the Muskogee County Health Department at 918-683-0321 for screening and further instructions.

Are campus events and activities being cancelled in response to Covid-19?

The campus is open, and classes, events, and activities are operating on a normal schedule. If the college's operating status changes based on health officials' guidance, the college community will be notified immediately through **BlackBoard** or email. It may become necessary for college classes to be taught via online technology. The college will inform students if this takes effect.

Will I be penalized if I don't attend class? What about work?

If you feel ill, you should use the same judgment you would normally use about attending class or work, staying home or seeking medical care. Because Bacone College will be operating on a normal schedule, the regular academic policies for class attendance apply, and regular HR policies apply for work attendance. You should always notify your professors or your supervisor if you are unable to attend class or work for any reason.