Dear Temple Rome Community, Parents and Friends:

The safety and welfare of all our students is the highest priority for everyone at Temple University and Temple Rome.

Given the recent media coverage regarding the coronavirus, we wanted to take this opportunity to let you know how we are handling the situation. First, it is important to remember that there have been only three COVID-19 cases in the Lazio region (where Rome is located) and these were treated successfully several weeks ago. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the people most susceptible to this virus are those over 60 and who have pre-existing conditions.

The CDC has Italy at an “Alert” level (2), which reminds travelers to practice enhanced precautions specifically aimed at targeting high-risk travelers. The US State Department is echoing this warning for certain travelers.

As you are aware, there have also been cases of the COVID-19 coronavirus reported in northern Italy and one recently in Florence, which has necessitated the passing of a special decree by the Italian government regarding rules and procedures to contain the virus.

We are following the advice of the Ministry of Health and of our colleagues at AACUPI (Association of American Colleges and University Programs in Italy) and have suspended all school-related travel this week. Our students are on spring break starting this Friday and we mandated that they register their travel with us so that we know where they are and can communicate with them while they are on break.

This week, we have midterms and we are working to keep students calm and focused on their academic programs. We are also working with our faculty on plans to continue educational activities depending on the evolution of the situation.

In addition, we have also communicated to the students the safe steps to stave off the virus and what to do in case they fall ill, both in Italy and abroad. All this information can be found on our website which we update daily.

We are keeping abreast of all governmental advice and we are directly in communication with our colleagues at the US Embassy in Rome as well as our International health insurance carrier ISOS and the US Department of State. We will follow their advice regarding evacuation and suspension of operations, if need be.

We want to assure you that the health and well-being of our students, faculty and staff is foremost in our minds and we appreciate your concern. We will continue to keep you posted as the situation evolves.

Most sincerely,

Fay R. Trachtenberg, J.D.
Acting Dean, Temple University Rome Campus