Dear Riverland Community,

Given the risks associated with COVID-19, and out of abundance of caution, the Chancellor has exercised the discretion, available to him under System Procedure 5.19.3, Travel Management, Part 10, subpart f, to suspend all Minnesota State-related international travel effective immediately. This includes study abroad programs, and any other activities involving faculty, staff, and students.

The system office will continue to monitor reports, guidance, and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. State Department and review this action on a recurring basis. Riverland’s designated point of contact for the COVID-19 is Laura Beasley, Dean of Nursing, Health and Wellness. The system office will communicate important developments to the college through Laura and me. Please direct questions to Dean Beasley (Laura.Beasley@riverland.edu or 507-433-0676).

Latest information from MN Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) include:

- At this time, the risk of becoming sick with COVID-19 is low, including for people in Minnesota.
- We are not making a recommendation that events or extracurricular activities be canceled.
- As always, we recommend that people stay home when sick, cover your mouth and nose with your elbow or a tissue when coughing and sneezing, and practice good hand hygiene—avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unclean hands, wash hands frequently with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer. These recommendations are especially important during cold and flu season.
- At this point there is no CDC guidance, or even precautions, about limiting travel within the United States or limiting public gatherings anywhere in the country.
- More information about COVID-19 is available on the website; open the link, bookmark it and check back periodically for updates.

It is important that we don’t assume students, employees, and community members with backgrounds from affected countries (or any other country) are carrying the COVID-19 Virus.