

## Cindy Rogers

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**From:** owner-allhands@listserv.fnal.gov on behalf of Fermilab News <news@fnal.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2020 8:02 AM  
**To:** allhands  
**Subject:** From Fermilab Director Nigel Lockyer: Coronavirus (COVID-19) update and new travel restrictions

Dear colleagues,

Fermilab has been monitoring the situation with the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The virus causes flu-like symptoms that range in severity from very mild to severe illness and death. Your health and the health and safety of the people that visit from all over the world every day is my top priority. Therefore, I have established a COVID-19 response task force, led by COO Kate Gregory, that has developed a plan to guide our response to this outbreak.

The COVID-19 response plan will escalate lab responses triggered by local, state and federal guidance, local conditions, workforce absenteeism, confirmed diagnosis of employee, contractor or user with COVID-19, or leadership decision. Currently, we are at the lowest level (Level 0), preparation and prevention.

At this time there are two confirmed and four pending cases in Illinois and none in South Dakota. **There have been no reported cases of COVID-19 at Fermilab.** However, as our community travels globally, there is a chance for people to be exposed to the virus.

Therefore, in order to limit the potential for exposure, there will be **no travel to or visits from or transiting through nations designated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as Level 2 or Level 3.** Fermilab is asking all users and visitors who have traveled from or through a foreign country for which the CDC has issued a [Warning Level 2 or 3 notice](#) to reschedule their visits until a later date or connect remotely. These nations currently include:

- China (Level 3)
- Iran (Level 3)
- South Korea (Level 3)
- Italy (Level 3)
- Japan (Level 2)

These travel restrictions will be in place until the CDC's travel guidance is adjusted.

I realize this uncertain timeframe will be difficult to manage, and more countries could be added to the list. Please work with your teams and our partners to consider options – for example, meeting remotely or rescheduling visits. Additionally, no one is *required* to travel anywhere. Travelers should consider the risk of exposure, travel network delays and potential quarantine. Please work with the [Travel Office](#) to cancel or reschedule authorized business travel.

In the meantime, each of us can take important measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses. These include:

- avoiding close contact with people who are sick.
- avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

- staying home when you are sick.
- covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in the trash.
- cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- following CDC's recommendations for using a facemask:
  - CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
  - Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for [health workers](#) and [people who are taking care of someone in close settings](#) (at home or in a health care facility).
- washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

A new Fermilab webpage has been established for you to keep up with COVID-19 at Fermilab. Please see [www.fnal.gov/covid19](http://www.fnal.gov/covid19). The task force will keep this page updated with important information. Please check in frequently.

Thank you for your attention to this concerning issue. If we all do our best to prevent the spread of germs, then we all have a better chance of staying healthy. If you have any questions, please submit them to [covid19@fnal.gov](mailto:covid19@fnal.gov).

Nigel