



Can I just avoid certain people who I think have COVID-19 and be OK?

No. We understand that everyone wants to protect themselves from becoming ill, but we want to remind our community that we also want to protect ourselves from any actions based on unsubstantiated fear or uncertainty, which can lead to individuals acting out-of-character or going against our [Values](#). The university empathizes with anyone who has been a victim of this virus, and for those affected by ancillary actions related to its spread. We support those who are affected by these circumstances.

Most importantly, as this situation continues to evolve, we understand that individuals may be fearful about catching the disease based on inaccurate or incomplete information. It is important for the University community to remember that the coronavirus does not discriminate. While the origins of the virus are from specific geographical regions, it is now on nearly every continent and is not exclusive to any one national origin. Discrimination against any group associated with an infectious disease is unacceptable and goes against the University's Core Values. Treating fellow staff, faculty and/or students adversely because of their race, religion, national origin, medical condition or other protected characteristic is against policy and will not be tolerated. Instead, community members are encouraged to refer to and utilize resources to better inform themselves of the signs and symptoms of the coronavirus. It is moments such as these in which it is incumbent on us as a community to work, support, and help each member of our community.