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international travel departing during the month of March. Regarding university-sponsored international travel beyond March, those decisions will be assessed as public health conditions warrant.

Last week Chancellor Finis St. John appointed a COVID-19 Communications and Policy Task Force to address the 2019 Corona virus. The task force, comprised of UA System medical researchers, faculty and staff, is continuously monitoring public health risks posed by the outbreak. Subsequently, a comprehensive University of Alabama System Interim Emergency Policy was developed regarding the 2019 Coronavirus. The policy will be updated as circumstances warrant.

“Our three campuses and the UAB Health System are dynamic entities with community members who are engaged in world-renowned teaching and research,” Chancellor Finis St. John said today. “We are taking a proactive and comprehensive approach to this health issue and all its complex impacts.

“The health and safety of our students, faculty and staff is our highest priority,” Chancellor St. John emphasized. “This is designated as an interim policy and we will continue to revise our guidance as additional information becomes available. I want to thank the members of our Task Force and everyone on our campuses and in our Health System who are working hard to address these issues.”