



Office of the Deputy Chancellor & Chief Financial Officer

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

March 5, 2020

To : All System CEOs

From: Billy Hamilton

RE: Processing of Visiting Scholar from COVID-19 Countries Rated Level 2 and 3

As we mentioned in the Chancellor's conference call on COVID-19 earlier this week, we will continue to provide updates as new guidance becomes available. One point that needs clarification is the policy on visiting scholars and other visitors from countries facing coronavirus challenges.

The universities and agencies should discontinue welcoming scholars and other visitors from CDC-designated Level 2 and Level 3 countries for the duration of this problem. Understandably, this is a departure from our normal, welcoming policy, and we hope to move beyond this problem soon. But after consultation, we have concluded, it is best for everyone involved to reschedule visits for consultation, training and so on until a later date.

In that connection, Texas A&M University Office of Immigration Services for Faculty & Scholars (ISFS) processes all visa requirements for visiting scholars and employees for System members. In light of the international COVID-19 outbreak, TAMU ISFS will not process any new sponsorship requests for visiting scholars and employees for persons from countries identified as CDC Level 2 or 3 and will delay visiting scholars whose process was already initiated. This suspension of immigration processing requests for visiting scholars and employees from CDC Level 2 or 3 countries will be immediate. However, since this is a rapidly changing landscape, this decision will be reviewed periodically.

ISFS will continue processing the sponsorship requests for individuals outside the United States (visiting scholars and nonimmigrant employees) from countries that are not within the above CDC referenced levels. However, should the levels of the countries change, as determined by the CDC, ISFS will suspend the sponsorship requests.

If you have any questions, please contact the Texas A&M University Immigration Services For Faculty & Scholars at 979-862-1719 or visit their website at <https://isfs.tamu.edu/>

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.