

# ECSU officials have issued new measures

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**WILLIMANTIC** — Eastern Connecticut State University officials say they are working together in an attempt to decrease the chances of a coronavirus outbreak on campus.

Connecticut State Colleges and Universities System President Mark E. Ojakian sent an email to the college community, including ECSU, on Monday regarding the coronavirus.

Ojakian reminded folks Connecticut saw its first case of the virus over the weekend in the Danbury area. Another one was confirmed in Connecticut Monday.

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“As the disease spreads around the world and in the United States, we have long expected it to land in Connecticut and have taken all necessary steps to mitigate the effects of the disease on our campuses,” Ojakian wrote.

Ojakian said the college system had previously suspended all institutionally sponsored travel to heavily coronavirus-stricken countries like Iran, Italy, Japan and China.

He said it has also asked community members who traveled to those countries to self-quarantine for 14 days upon their return.

Currently, the college system has placed a freeze on all institutionally sponsored travel outside of Connecticut — including sports teams.

“People are disappointed, but they are understanding,” said Eastern President Elsa Núñez this morning. “Everyone is being cooperative and understands that we need to protect our community.”

In addition, all students, faculty and staff are strongly discouraged from personal travel out-

**ECSU. Page 4**

# ECSU announces new precautions



**A student walks through campus Monday at Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic.** Roxanne Pandolfi | Staff

## Continued from Page 1

side of Connecticut, especially during spring break.

Anyone who does travel will be asked to self-report their travel plans.

Any employees planning in-person meetings with out-of-state individuals should evaluate whether these meetings can be held via teleconference.

All campus events or meetings, other than classes that are expected to have more than 100 people will be canceled, adjusted or postponed through at least April 30.

This may include using technology to allow remote participation.

Eastern has also said it has canceled several out-of-state trips for athletic teams.

“We will remain in close contact with state and local officials, and will work with your campus leaders to clarify questions and address requests for exceptions to these procedures as they arise,” Ojakian wrote.

“Working together, the CSCU system office and your campus leader will continue to keep you updated as this situation unfolds.”

Ojakian said property management firms and cleaning contractors have been directed to increase the frequency of disinfectant cleaning.

Finally, Ojakian advised folks of common health practices, like washing hands, avoiding shaking hands and covering a cough or sneeze.

Núñez said the university has a pandemic and epidemic committee that has been meeting regularly regarding how to prepare for future outbreaks.

“Everybody is asking us, ‘What do we have to do to keep everyone safe?’” Núñez said.

*Follow Claire Galvin on Twitter - @CGalvinTC.*