

DATE: March 17, 2020

SUBJECT: Exchange Visitor Program Sponsor Guidance - Online programs

Dear Sponsor,

The Department appreciates your efforts in addressing the care and concern of your exchange visitors during this challenging time. We know that you are actively seeking alternative ways to maintain program objectives and/or employment, such as telework, online classes, or other arrangements, while preventing unnecessary exposure to the disease and its spread. Please know that OPA recognizes flexibility is needed given the uncertainty created by the widespread COVID-19 outbreak, and we will work closely with you to support you however we can.

In accordance with monitoring requirements, we ask that if your institution is moving towards an online environment, please report it to AGalert@state.gov using the Incident Report Form if you have not already done so. OPA is aware that as some sponsors move their operations to an online environment, their institutions are concurrently working on measures to decrease the density of their campuses (including moving exchange visitors out of university housing). If your institution is taking measures to relocate exchange visitors from campus housing, please detail this in your Incident Report and explain the options and/or resources you are providing to exchange visitors in terms of alternative housing. Please use this opportunity to remind your exchange visitors of the requirement for them to report to you within ten calendar days any changes in their telephone numbers, email addresses, actual and current U.S. addresses, and site of activity [22 CFR 62.10(d)(3)]. Please update SEVIS when necessary to reflect accurate program information including current U.S. address and site(s) of activity.

Again, we appreciate your efforts in safeguarding your exchange visitors and yourselves. Your commitment to the Exchange Visitor Program does not go unnoticed, and particularly at a time like this we are very grateful to have a partner like you. Take care.

Yours in partnership,

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