



Society of Vertebrate Paleontology

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SVP STATEMENT ON CORONAVIRUS

We wanted to share a brief message regarding the emerging public health concerns posed by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). We are closely monitoring updates from local and national public health authorities regarding the situation in communities where cases of the virus have been confirmed.

In this time of uncertainty, it's important to monitor updates and news from reputable sources. SVP is looking to three major reputable health organizations to provide guidance on events and activities during this period:

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- **World Health Organization (WHO)**
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>
- **European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control**
<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china>

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is working with state and local governments to implement aggressive measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In addition, there are several easy steps that we can all take to help minimize the risk of exposure. These are the same basic steps we should be taking every day to help prevent the spread of illnesses such as the flu and the common cold:

- Wash your hands frequently. Keeping hands clean through improved hand hygiene is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. In addition, having hand sanitizer readily available is always a good idea.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands. Put your used tissue in a waste basket immediately and wash your hands after coughing or sneezing.
- Follow the recommendations of your home country with respect to self-isolating after travel or appearance of symptoms, and restrictions on travel.

At present, there is no information to suggest that there is an imminent risk to our annual meeting occurring in Cincinnati in October 2020. Currently, we have no plans to postpone or cancel the meeting. Abstract submission continues as normal and registration will open on April 23rd, 2020 as planned.

We will of course continue to provide updates as the situation develops and new information becomes available.