



# The Association of Theological Schools The Commission on Accrediting

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*Frank M. Yamada • Executive Director*

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The Association of Theological Schools (ATS) has been monitoring the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak situation as it is changing daily.

- For now, all ATS events planned within the months of March and April will continue as scheduled. This decision is made based on the most current information that we have from the CDC on travel advisories within the US and Canada.
- If you do plan to attend an upcoming ATS event, please refer to this [resource for best health practices and reminders](#) when traveling to and from (and while attending) that event.
- If you are restricted from traveling to an ATS event, please contact the staff person coordinating that gathering in the [ATS calendar of events](#). That person will let you know how we can support you in your decision to minimize the personal and financial inconvenience.
- If you are at heightened risk to the virus, we support any decision that you make to protect your own health and safety. Should you decide not to travel, please contact the staff person coordinating that particular event so we can support you.
- If you have concerns about a particular event or gathering, do not hesitate to reach out to the appropriate staff person.
- We will continue to monitor each situation as it unfolds daily and will communicate any changes that result.

A contingency plan for the upcoming [2020 ATS/COA Biennial Meeting](#) is underway. As you know, an important vote will take place on the redeveloped standards for accreditation. All contingency plans will take into consideration: 1) the health and safety of the participants; 2) the risks to travel, including potential travel bans and restrictions; and 3) the importance of protecting the integrity of the voting process. We will communicate more details about the Biennial Meeting in the upcoming days and weeks.

We have been receiving communications that several member schools are doing contingency planning should there be a major disruption to their educational programming; please visit the [discussion](#) that was started on [Engage ATS](#) to read about the latest travel/health policies your fellow members are practicing and/or to share your own. If your school has any questions about temporary authorization for distance education, exceptions to residency, or other adjustments in response to COVID-19 concerns, we encourage you to be in touch with your ATS Commission staff liaison.

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