

NEWS



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Coronavirus Cancels Italy Travel Seminar

BY ISABELLA D'BURKE

While the coronavirus spreads itself throughout the world, nine Concordia students are affected as their spring break travel seminar to Italy is canceled. The nine students and their two advisors were going to leave for Italy February 29th and come back March 8th, but their trip was abruptly canceled three days before departure as the CDC issued a Level 3 Travel Health Notice. The group was set to go to Sorrento, Naples, and Rome.

According to the Johns Hopkins University tracker, the coronavirus has infected more than 310,000 people globally and caused nearly 13,500 deaths. In Italy, specifically, the cases have risen to 46,638 and 5,476 dead as of Sunday. Italy is now the first country in Europe to put the whole country under lockdown. Even the streets of Rome are empty as Italy's government has ordered all shops, bars, and restaurants across the country close. Following the lockdown, masses of Roman residents formed lines outside supermarkets to stockpile food. Not only that, but inmates at more than two dozen Italian prisons have rioted against the lockdown as it has caused restrictions on family visits and other containment measures. Six died after breaking into the infirmary and overdosing on methadone.

This coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, originated in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. COVID-19 is actually the third novel coronavirus we have encountered over the past two decades. The first, SARS-CoV (SARS), was discovered in 2003, and the second, MERS-CoV (MERS) was found ten years later. There have been 8,000 cases and 800 deaths related to SARS and 2,494 cases of MERS with 900 documented deaths. Coronaviruses like SARS, MERS, and COVID-19 originate from animals, bats being considered natural hosts of these viruses. But, SARS was transmitted to humans from civet cats, and MERS was transmitted to humans from camels.

In the U.S., as of March 22nd, there have been 24,300 total coronavirus cases and 340 have died. COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, specifically to people who are within about 6 feet of each other or from ingesting particles from an infected person's cough or sneeze. COVID-19 symptoms are similar to those of a cold or the flu; fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure. There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The CDC says that the best way to protect yourself from the virus is to wash your hands frequently and avoid close contact with those infected.

Ghost Ship Appears

BY ALEXANDRIA GOSEN

Storm Dennis had been ravaging England, Wales, and Ireland, but amongst the storm, a mysterious ship appeared on Ireland's shore. It was discovered by a jogger passing by in Ballycott. This 250 ft. vessel, once known as the MV Alta, was abandoned in October 2018 in the South East of the Bermuda Triangle. The MV Alta drifted thousands of miles within the last year.

Once a cargo ship, the Alta was built in 1976, and it's last crew abandoned ship during a trip from Greece to Haiti after a power outage. This outage led to the Alta drifting 1,300 miles in a little over two weeks. The Coast Guard rescued ten crew members, and the ship was completely abandoned. Plans of recovering the ship were abandoned. According to *The Guardian*, this ship was brought to Guyana and hijacked. However, when it was rediscovered in the Atlantic, August 2019, the ship was reportedly crewless at that time.

Over the past year, this ghost ship has been spotted traveling past the African Coast, Spanish Coast, and English Coast before its arrival in Ireland. The Cork City Council stated that the ship is, "on a dangerous and inaccessible stretch of coastline and is in an unstable condition."

Examiners and experts have labeled this as a one in a million chance, and most have never seen anything like this before. Though the wreckage has been labeled as not a pollution threat, there is reported to be sealed containers on the ship filled with oil and other materials needed for the ship's original operation that need to be removed to prevent any potential environmental damage. An unnamed person has come forward as the owner of the Alta. This is currently being assessed. All officials are collaborating to figure out how to proceed with the wreckage. Civilians have been asked to stay away.