

February 3, 2020: Update on the 2019-nCoV outbreak

Monday, February 3, 2020 4:41 PM

Dear Members of HKUST,

In light of the rapidly developing novel coronavirus emergency, in order to step up the measures to safeguard the health and safety of our community, the University has decided to adopt the following measures:

- I. For public health reasons, all non-local Undergraduates, Taught Postgraduates and Research Postgraduates who are now outside Hong Kong should NOT return to the City until further notice.

The email message of February 1, 2020 issued by the Provost has already provided detailed information on the teaching and examination arrangements. As students can participate in both teaching and examinations via on-line mode, a physical presence on campus will not be required for the Spring term. When the situation improves, the University will conduct mixed-mode teaching which supports simultaneously both face-to-face classroom delivery on campus and live interactive on-line delivery for students off campus or under quarantine. Supervisors should be supportive of students and help develop flexible research and study plans.

As indicated below, either monitored quarantine or self-quarantine is necessary for those returning from the Mainland. As the University has limited self-quarantine facilities, members will have to make alternative arrangements if on-campus quarantine is not available.

- II. Quarantine arrangements for students, staff, family members/helpers who are already in Hong Kong and have been in the Mainland in the past 14 days.

- a) For those who have been in Hubei Province in the past 14 days

According to the HKSAR Government, all those returning to Hong Kong who have been in Hubei province in the past 14 days are to undergo 14 days of **monitored quarantine**, and the Government will screen these cases at the border.

- b) For all members who have been in other parts of the Mainland in the past 14 days

The HKSAR Government also appeals to Hong Kong residents returning from other places on the Mainland to **self-quarantine** for 14 days upon their return as far as the circumstances permit. They should leave home only in exceptional circumstances (such as seeking medical care or when daily necessities cannot be obtained by other means), and when doing so should wear a surgical mask at all times and avoid crowded areas. (Please click [here](#) for the guideline from HKSAR Government).

Staff concerned should inform Directors, Heads and Deans who will exercise discretion and make appropriate arrangements.

- III. All University members including **family members and helpers** living on campus must complete the self-declaration health form and follow the same guidelines. If you have not yet completed the form, please do so immediately (please click [here](#)). For health declaration of family members and helpers who live on campus, respective staff will be contacted shortly by the Staff Housing Office.
- IV. In order to cope with the public health concerns, all students who have not moved into the university halls are requested to postpone their check-in dates until further notice. When the situation improves, the University will make announcements. The University will also adjust the hall fees accordingly.

- V. Current hall residents, where feasible, are strongly advised to move out. The University will reassign the hall places to create sufficient capacity for quarantine purposes. Students who will continue to stay in the hall may have to be reassigned to another hall place. Regarding refund of the hall fee, SHRLO issued a message to hall residents on February 1, 2020 (please click [here](#)) and will coordinate with you all. The University will refund the residents accordingly.

Students and colleagues are advised to observe the above guidelines as your full cooperation on these arrangements during this time is crucial for the University and the Hong Kong community to overcome these tremendous health challenges.

The emergence of this new threat to the health of our students, staff, and faculty is adding further strain to our already stressed community. We urge all members to be tolerant and flexible as we adapt to the evolving situation, and we must all work to support each other as best as we can.

Sincerely,

Wei Shyy, President

Lionel Ni, Provost

Mark Hodgson, Vice President for Administration and Business

Enquires:

For questions related to the novel coronavirus, please contact the hotline of Department of Health, SAR Government (tel no. 21251122) or refer to <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/102465.html>

For questions related to hall arrangement and hall fee refund, please contact shrloinfo@ust.hk

For questions related to quarantine, please contact vpabo@ust.hk or safety@ust.hk.