

## **February 6, 2020: Update on the 2019-nCoV outbreak**

Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:06:03 PM

Dear Members of HKUST,

Following the Government's tightened measure to impose mandatory quarantine on all travelers entering from the Mainland for 14 days starting February 8, 2020 (<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202002/05/P2020020500793.htm>), and in view of the worsening situation of the novel coronavirus infection in the City, the University has decided that special work arrangements for University operations will remain in place for another week.

### **Extension of work from home arrangement until February 16, 2020**

Except for staff providing emergency and essential services, all other employees of the University are advised to work from home for one more week until February 16, 2020. Staff living across the border should not return to campus and should only work from home until the quarantine requirement is lifted. All heads/directors should ensure that university business will be maintained and will progress as far as practicable. Colleagues are encouraged to update their supervisors their work progress and seek advice if they encounter difficulties.

### **Non-local students who are now outside HK are strongly advised NOT to return**

Once again, we would like to reiterate that all non-local Undergraduates, Taught Postgraduates and Research Postgraduates who are now outside Hong Kong should NOT return to the City until further notice (For details, please refer to the announcement of February 3 [here](#)).

### **Current hall residents are strongly advised to move out**

With limited quarantine capacity in the City, it is difficult to contain possible spread of the disease. All current hall residents, if feasible, are strongly advised to move out of the campus, so as to enable the University to reassign some hall places to create capacity for quarantine purposes, which will in turn help protect all members' health.

### **Stepped up measures to safeguard against the spread of the virus**

The University has stepped up measures to ensure health safety. These measures include setting up of a quarantine facility at the Conference Lodge. Colleagues from Health, Safety and Environment Office (HSEO) and Campus Services Office (CSO) are working closely to ensure that health and safety measures are appropriately implemented and basic needs of those staying in the Conference Lodge are taken care of. We are tightening up measures to monitor our campus' situation and will take actions as necessary.

**All HKUST members must strictly follow safety measures**

All University members should wear a face mask when coming into contact with others during essential activities or when using University laboratories and facilities. All academic and non-academic unit heads must monitor the situation very carefully. HSEO would exercise their authority to make sure the above guidelines are followed in laboratories and relatively high risk areas.

**Operating hours of various facilities during the period**

All University offices, Library, Learning Commons, indoor and outdoor sports facilities will remain close until February 16, 2020. During the period, Tennis Courts, Seafront Outdoor Basketball Court and Mini Soccer Pitch will however remain open. Staff bus and shuttle bus services will be suspended.

While the Medical Clinic will remain open, Staff and Student Dental Clinics will be closed.

To provide campus residents with basic services and support, some of the catering and retail outlets will continue to operate. Please click [here](#) for detailed information.

So far, there is no confirmed case among HKUST members and we all must observe the above guidelines in order to continue keeping our campus safe. Your full cooperation on these arrangements during this critical time is crucial. Thank you for your attention.

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 [shrlinfo@ust.hk](mailto:shrlinfo@ust.hk).

For questions related to quarantine, please contact [ypabo@ust.hk](mailto:ypabo@ust.hk) or [safety@ust.hk](mailto:safety@ust.hk).