

Update on Covid-19 outbreak (12 February 2020)

Wednesday, February 12, 2020 5:00 PM

Dear Members of HKUST,

Following the Government's tightened measure to impose mandatory quarantine on all travellers entering from the Mainland for 14 days starting February 8, 2020

(<https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202002/05/P2020020500793.htm>), and in continuing efforts to contain the outbreak 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 23, 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 23, 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. Examinations for some Fall courses will start on February 17th and live interactive online teaching will start on February 19th. Face to face teaching will not be resumed until the public health concerns are no longer a major risk to campus operation. All faculty members, instructional, supporting staff and assistants involved in online teaching are requested to handle the teaching tasks with highest priority and expected quality assurance. All preparation work, pre-class meetings, and the Zoom classes of the courses can be conducted using Zoom from home. We urge all to start preparing now if you have not done so. We will monitor the situation closely and will advise all members when teaching can be switched to mixed-mode.

Self-Quarantine Arrangements

Self-quarantine requires the individual to stay in their accommodation units at all times. CSO is ready to provide useful information and support as required. All staff, family members and helpers currently residing on-campus should undergo self-quarantine in their own residential unit, as needed, per the announced guidelines. All students currently residing on campus should undergo managed self-quarantine in either Conference Lodge or at a hotel off campus, as determined by the University. Conference Lodge is the only managed self-quarantine facility on campus for students. Unless there is a critical need, UG and PG Student Hostels will not be used for self-quarantine and the use of hotels will be phased out.

Students with hostel places not currently living on campus

Students should not return to campus until the University re-opens as normal and check-in arrangements for students hostels remain suspended. As per our previous message, all non-local students who are now outside Hong Kong are strongly advised not to return to the City. Anyone who chooses to return against the University's advice will have to be prepared to handle self-quarantine directly; the University will only assist if we have available space. In order to help manage campus-wide health, the population density within our halls should be reduced. Hence, we repeat our previous appeal for students currently residing on campus to check out by February 17th. Any students checking out will be eligible for a refund of hostel fees. We also appeal to University members not to arrange social events on campus involving more than 10 people.

All HKUST members must strictly follow safety measures

The safety of the entire University community is the top priority. Any University member violating the self-quarantine rules or arriving on campus without completing the required self-quarantine will be escorted to leave campus and reported to HKSAR Government for follow-up action. Further discipline action may be taken to address such violation.

Operating hours of various facilities during the period

All University offices, Library, Learning Commons, indoor and outdoor sports facilities will remain close until further notice. 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 updates from CSO.

Information on the spread of the virus

We are aware that there has been some false information about the spread of the virus on our campus. To date, there are no confirmed cases of the virus amongst our staff or students living on campus. To avoid rumours and misinformation in the future, the University has set up an official source of information about the status of the virus on campus. Please check the following link: <https://hseo.ust.hk/ncov>

These are very difficult times for everyone in Hong Kong and the University Management is doing its upmost to keep our campus free from any outbreak of the Corona virus. We appeal for everyone's understanding and cooperation at this time.

Thank you.

Wei Shyy, President

Lionel Ni, Provost

Mark Hodgson, Vice-President for Administration and Business