

Update on Anti-epidemic Measures for Fall Term 2021

Monday, Aug 30, 2021, 11:41AM

Dear Members of the University,

With the resumption of in-person teaching and launching of the vaccination or regular testing requirements for the Fall Term **starting on 1 September 2021**, our campus community will enter a new phase of operation as well as our fight against COVID-19. We would like to remind all members:

- Although vaccination or regular testing and reporting may cause some inconvenience, the assurance that everyone on campus is vaccinated or regularly tested allows resumption of many activities that were suspended by the pandemic for more than a year.
- On the other hand, we cannot let our guard down. The easily transmissible Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2 is now rampaging through many countries, and has been detected in multiple imported cases in Hong Kong.
- Scientific data shows that vaccinated people can still be infected and spread the disease, however, the symptoms are usually mild or not noticeable, so even if vaccination cannot completely stop the transmission, it can certainly protect vaccinated people from severe illnesses.
- The University will continue to maintain a high level of hygiene throughout campus, including periodic application of antimicrobial coating in frequently accessed areas and provision of hand sanitizers in multiple locations.
- Whether we are vaccinated or not, we need to **continue protective measures that are proven effective** in containing the disease, such as mask-wearing, adequate ventilation of indoor environment, observe social distancing and personal and environmental hygiene.

Arrangements for Fall Term

- To facilitate resumption of normal teaching and learning activities, classrooms and laboratories may be used to normal capacity with the vaccination or testing requirements in place.
- Campus events and activities are expected to resume normal to the extent feasible provided that government-imposed restrictions and general preventive measures are followed. Members may consult HSEO if there is any question about preventive measures.
- Temporary food counters will be set up offering express takeaway services, along with additional seating in communal areas to reduce crowding in catering outlets.
- Shuttle buses travelling to and from Hang Hau and Po Lam will also be arranged during lunch hours. More details will be announced by the Campus Services Office in due course.
- Heads of Departments and Offices are encouraged to consider adopting flexible arrangements such as staggered lunch breaks.

More details of updated Campus Hygiene Measures can be found at the University COVID Info Portal:

<https://covid19info.ust.hk/campus-hygiene-measures>.

Let us all get vaccinated, or get regularly tested if vaccination is not feasible. At the same time, everyone of us, vaccinated or not, should continue practicing preventive measures until we overcome this pandemic!

Warm regards,

TC Pong, Vice-President for Administration and Business
Samuel Yu, Director of Health, Safety and Environment
Derek Sit, Director of Campus Services