

## **A confirmed case of COVID-19 related to Startup Zone**

Thursday, Mar 4, 2021, 15:10PM

Dear Members of HKUST,

We were informed that one of the close contacts of the previous case, the CBE emeritus professor, has also been found positive for COVID-19. He is an employee of one of the startup companies and had meetings with the infected CBE emeritus professor in the Startup Zone, 3/F, Annex Building last week. After the CBE emeritus professor's case was announced on Monday, the startup company employee has already been sent to a quarantine centre by the Government. Since then he has developed symptoms and was sent to the hospital.

The startup company employee lives in Hang Hau, and he last came to campus on 1 March. He usually takes minibus Route 11M to and from campus. On 1 March, he took bus Route 91M on the way back. In the past week, the startup company employee has worked in his office and been to the 5/F podium near lift numbers 29 and 30. He has also been to laboratory room CYT-2007A with the infected CBE emeritus professor. He usually brings his own lunch and eats at his office or the pantry in the Startup Zone. On 1 March, he bought a lunch box from the LG1 canteen.

Special cleaning has already been done in the room used by the startup company and nearby areas after the case of the retired professor was known. CMO colleagues are conducting special cleaning to the other areas frequented by the infected person. The transmission risk of buying takeout is low, however, the LG1 caterer will be reminded to step up their cleaning.

All staff living in the same tower as the CBE emeritus professor, Tower 7, will complete their COVID-19 tests within today. All results received so far have been negative. We have also received encouraging news that the ECE faculty member, who is the spouse of the retired professor, has received a negative result. All thirteen members of her research team have also received negative results. Another close contact, who is a CBE faculty member, also reported a negative test result.

We will continue to update the campus community when more information is available.

Kind regards,

Mark Hodgson, Vice-President for Administration and Business  
Samuel Yu, Director of Health, Safety and Environment