

Contingency plans to handle COVID-19 cases among campus residents

Wednesday, Feb 16, 2022, 09:44AM

Dear Members of the University,

As the number of COVID-19 cases has been increasing rapidly in Hong Kong, all residents of the City are on the same boat. There have also been several preliminary positive cases reported on campus in catering outlets, one of the student halls, and several offices. Case information will soon be updated to [the University COVID-19 webpage](#).

In order to protect the health and safety of members, the University is making contingency plans to accommodate campus residents who are tested positive for COVID-19 and close contacts using multiple facilities as follows:

- Confirmed / preliminary positive cases: Members living on campus who are tested positive for COVID-19 will be moved to a temporary place for isolation until they are admitted to the hospitals / facilities designated by the Government. The university has identified several facilities including the Conference Lodge, the Distinguished Guest Lodge and appropriate vacant Senior Staff Houses for this purpose.
- Close contacts: close contacts (e.g. household members, hall roommates, hall residents in adjacent rooms) of preliminary positive cases among campus residents will be requested to stay at home or a designated hall for 7 days. Staff residents and family members may stay in their quarters, while students living in halls will be moved to Hall 9 for this quarantine period. We are also making preparation to use Hall 8 for this purpose if needed. Note that this is a quarantine arrangement by the University, members may need to follow other Government requirements if so instructed.
- Logistics support, e.g. transport of members to isolation/quarantine facilities, food ordering and delivery, and special cleaning services (as needed) will be arranged.
- If there is a positive case in a hall, other residents tested negative may choose to move out and their hall fee will be refunded on a pro-rata basis.

On a related subject, HSEO launched a survey on Monday about interest of a new round of on-campus vaccination service, and the response has been very positive. HSEO will now actively pursue an earliest possible date for the Sinovac vaccination to take place on campus. An announcement for booking will be made when details are confirmed with the Government contractor.

If you have questions about the above measures or COVID-related matters, please write to safety@ust.hk.

Hong Kong's pandemic situation is expected to continue to be difficult before getting better. We stress that we of the HKUST family are in this together, and will continue to do our best to support our collective and individual needs. Unless you have critical needs, please avoid public places and don't go out for socializing.

Let's support each other with respect and trust. We greatly appreciate many colleagues' efforts around the clock on multiple fronts.

Take care and stay vigilant,

Wei Shyy, President

T. C. Pong, Vice-President for Administration and Business

Samuel Yu, Director of Health, Safety and Environment