

Enhanced support in midst of pandemic

Tuesday, Feb 22, 2022, 12:56AM

Dear Members of the University,

In this wave of the pandemic, the daily lives for all of us have been affected. Colleagues from various offices have been working hard around the clock to support and protect the health and safety of members in response to the emerging and quick developments. University members have also been contributing ideas and suggestions on providing better support to the campus community, including supporting those who were tested positive for COVID-19 or identified as close contacts; supplying masks and rapid test kits on campus; offering more usable space for work and study; and increasing fresh food supply in the supermarket, etc. We thank all your inputs which are very sensible and helpful.

Based on the suggestions received, the University will be making the following arrangements:

1. More rapid test kits are being purchased and will be distributed in stages to all members once stock is available according to priorities, e.g. essential and frontline staff, students, staff, and family members on campus, etc. Since rapid test kits are in short supply, please use them only when needed, e.g. when one has symptoms or becomes close contact.
2. Masks with better protection, e.g. KF94, are being sourced for provision to members. More details will follow.
3. Library hours (including Learning Commons) will be extended starting tomorrow (23 February). Please refer to the Library [webpage](#) for details.
4. Fusion will offer more fresh produce including vegetables, meat, and eggs, etc. 7-Eleven also provides easy to heat foods / quick meals and is open 24/7.

The University will closely monitor the situation and offer support where needed if possible.

During this challenging time, we ask the entire HKUST family to work together as an integrated and holistic team. We fully understand that members have certain expectations, e.g. offer broader vaccination support; while the University will provide support as far as practicable, in circumstances where there are clear government guidelines, the University must follow and we have no authority to bypass such guidelines.

If you have any suggestions, please contact us at covid@ust.hk. We would also like to remind members to strictly adhere to preventive measures and practice good personal and environmental hygiene at all times, including in the bathrooms. We need the cooperation from all of you to make the campus a safer place.

Best regards,

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