

Our Way Forward amidst this Severe Wave of COVID-19 Infections

Saturday, Mar 5, 2022, 14:27PM

Dear Members of HKUST,

Earlier this week, about 800 members had taken Sinovac vaccine on campus, with a vast majority of them as the third, booster shots. We would like to express our most sincere appreciation to Bamboos, Health Safety and Environment Office (HSEO), Information Technology Services Center (ITSC), Information Systems Office (ISO), Dean of Students Office (DSTO) and Campus Management Office (CMO) colleagues, who made this possible. If feasible, we will arrange vaccination for BioNTech soon.

We reiterate again our deep appreciation of many, many dedicated colleagues. Some offices, including HSEO, Student Housing & Residential Life Office (SHRLO), CMO and Campus Services Office (CSO), are working around the clock to keep our campus community safe. Some essential units, such as Laboratory Animal Facility (LAF) and Center of Laboratory Supplies (CLS), have been very stressed with tremendous workload and demands, while facing reduced manpower due to isolation/quarantine. We are trying to redeploy members to meet the needs and employ all possible means, including temporary campus accommodation, to support essential operations.

With the persistent surge of positive cases in Hong Kong, we are sustaining our supports to members, including providing facilities and support for isolation of positive cases and quarantine of close contacts, rapid test kits, masks, cleaning, and expanded services by library, supermarket, and other facilities.

With infection proceeding at this pace, there will likely be further impact on our academic activities. In particular, if scheduled classes or exams are to be affected, we will adapt and adjust as needed.

We are cooperating with the Government and have identified outdoor sites suitable for public, community-wide testing. With the fast-moving conditions, we will continue to closely monitor pandemic situation and Government policy, so that we can adjust our operations accordingly, and duly support our members in need. Let us all support each other with respect and appreciation in this challenging time.

We appeal to all of us at HKUST, as members of Hong Kong, to cooperate and collaborate with each other so that our "Hometown" can return to its familiar self as soon as possible.

Please take care.

Wei Shyy, President

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

Samuel Yu, Director for Health, Safety and Environment