

Update on COVID-19 cases and flexible working arrangements

Monday, July 20, 2020 17:50PM

Dear staff and students,

We would like to inform all University members that a cleaner who works in the Conference Lodge (CL) kitchen has preliminarily tested positive for COVID-19. For details about this case, please check the COVID-19 webpage <https://covid19info.ust.hk/latest-figures>. To play safe, the University is arranging for all CL staff to be tested for COVID-19. This includes all UniBar and Bistro staff due to work sharing. In the meantime, all CL staff will work from home and be replaced by other staff and contractors until the outcome of the CL staff tests are confirmed negative. In addition, all residents of CL will undergo COVID-19 tests at the same time as the CL staff, and the whole facility will be deep cleaned. Further information and updates will be provided on the University's COVID-19 Info Portal webpage <https://covid19info.ust.hk/>.

As we announced on Monday 13th July, all staff should work from home until further notice except for staff performing critical duties on-campus. In addition, and in light of the Government's response to a further escalation in COVID-19 cases in Hong Kong in recent days, the University would implement the following further measures with immediate effect:

1. A suspension of all face to face teaching for at least 2 weeks. Whilst nearly all teaching activity is already on-line, there are some activities which were planned face to face, e.g. MBA courses and UG makeup laboratory sessions, that will now be suspended.
2. The University will reinstate access and usage restriction of research labs according to the March 30th 2020 arrangements. These can be found at the following link https://hseo.ust.hk/system/files/documents/COVID-19_Info_Web_Email_2020-03-30_DHSE_1.pdf
3. The library and computer barns will close until further notice.
4. All campus events involving face to face interactions will be suspended, these include activities involving secondary school students and other members of the public. Visitors should also be restricted as far as possible.
5. Social distancing will be implemented for all queuing on campus. This applies to queuing for canteens, supermarket, banks and transport. Please look out for markers on the ground or notices along the railings.

The staff coaches and shuttle buses will continue to operate as previously announced for the whole of this week (i.e. through Friday 24th July). Demand will be assessed before the arrangements for next week (commencing Monday 27th July) are confirmed and communicated.

We would like to remind all members of the University to wear face masks and wash their hands frequently to minimise the risk of contracting or spreading the virus.

We thank everyone for their understanding and support. Please stay safe.

Kind regards,

Mark Hodgson, VPAB
Samuel Yu, HSEO