

COVID-19 Update (20 March 2020)

Friday, March 20, 2020 7:06 PM

Dear Members of HKUST,

A second confirmed COVID-19 case

We were informed this morning that a part-time postgraduate student who returned to Hong Kong from New York was confirmed with COVID-19. The student travelled back to Hong Kong on 15 March and exhibited symptoms on 19 March. The student is now hospitalized. While this student has not been on campus since leaving for New York, the University is now reaching out to those who may have had close contact with the subject person over the past 14 days. We will render them all necessary assistance and advise them to seek medical help from local authorities as appropriate.

University portal of COVID-19 related figures

The University has launched a portal for official COVID-19 related figures since 12 Feb 2020 <https://hseo.ust.hk/ncov>. Henceforth, this portal will be the channel to announce any further confirmed COVID-19 cases among the campus community, as well as report on number of members undergoing quarantine.

Online travel and contact history report form

Yesterday HSEO announced the online travel and contact history report form https://ust.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0ppxSYpjOiax0Hz. We would like to clarify that colleagues and students are required to **report any travel and contact history as from 4 Mar 2020**, when the Provost and VP-AB requested such reporting in an all member message. This way we can be notified about any relevant travel or contact information arising in the last 14 days. **The University requires that anyone residing on campus who has returned to HK within the past 14 days from anywhere (except Taiwan and Macau) should engage in self-quarantine. Furthermore, if a member residing in their household (e.g. returned family members, domestic workers, roommates, house guests) has returned within the past 14 days, then the returning household member should undertake self-quarantine. In addition, all members of the household should stay in the residence as far as possible and the staff member should work from home. Staff members living off campus in the same situation are required to work from home.** The University also requests that any members currently outside Hong Kong, uses the same travel and contact form to report on their whereabouts and well-being. This will help the University to provide any advice or support required.

University committed to assist members in need

Please be assured that the University is committed to help members in need. Whether you are in Hong Kong or abroad, if you need help in your work or study arrangement, temporary housing for quarantine, or other matters arising from the pandemic situation, please contact your department or unit, or the following offices for assistance:

Study related: School Dean's Office

Campus health and safety matters: HSEO safety@ust.hk

Campus housing: SHRLO shrloinfo@ust.hk and CMO staffhousing@ust.hk

Quarantine related: VPABO vpabo@ust.hk

With the pandemic situation rapidly evolving, please take good care of yourself and stay well. Staying vigilant for an extended period of time may become tiring, but we must persevere and support each other to overcome this unprecedented public health crisis.

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