

COVID-19 – Working from home next week

Sunday, March 22, 2020 12:13 PM

Dear all staff and students,

Working from home until further notice

Following the Government's announcement yesterday for special work arrangements for civil servants to reduce social contact, the University has decided to resume working from home. Starting Monday 23rd March, all staff except those performing essential and time sensitive work should work from home until further notice. Staff with special health conditions, including pregnancy, should inform their Director or Department Head so that suitable work arrangement can be made. Online teaching, campus security, health and safety, basic maintenance and cleaning and some retail and catering outlets will continue to open. Library, Learning Commons, indoor and outdoor sports facilities will be closed until further notice except tennis courts. All Directors and Heads of Department will aim to maintain other operations online, to the extent feasible. Please look out for specific announcements from CSO about transport, retail and food operations.

Update on COVID-19 and self-quarantine

With many people entering Hong Kong during the last several days from many parts of the world, we need to do all we can to protect the well-being of the members of the University. It is essential that all members observe the requirement to report travel and contact history and self-quarantine as communicated by VPAB and DHSE last Friday. We reiterate our policy that:

- 1) All members who returned to Hong Kong within the last 14 days should observe self-quarantine at home (for staff) or in accommodation deemed suitable (for students).
- 2) If you have any family members or others who returned to Hong Kong and share the same residence with you, 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. If you need assistance, please contact University management via the email addresses provided by VPAB and DHSE in Friday's message.

At the time of writing the University has 2 confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst its Members, both believed to have contracted abroad and both are being treated in a local hospital. We have a number of other members undergoing self-quarantine including one awaiting test results. Please refer to the HSEO website <https://hseo.ust.hk/ncov> for official University information. This is updated regularly.

We are in a most challenging time. All of us, with no exception, are affected. We thank all members for supporting the University's mission. Let's continue to be united to support each other.

Thank you.

Wei Shyy, President

Lionel Ni, Provost

Mark Hodgson, Vice-President for Administration and Business