

Update on COVID-19 (March 31, 2020)

Tuesday, March 31, 2020 10:592 PM

Dear Members of HKUST,

We were informed today that the wife of an HKUST faculty member living in Tower D on campus was confirmed with Covid-19 and is now hospitalized. Since this is the first confirmed case on campus, we would like to provide you with more details about the case and the immediate follow up actions taken by the University.

The subject person was notified on March 26 that a friend whom she met on March 21 was diagnosed with Covid-19. The subject person was put into a quarantine center on March 28 and became a confirmed case on March 31 after being tested. The faculty member, who has not had developed any symptoms so far, has now become a close contact of a confirmed case. While the University is waiting for instructions from Department of Health regarding quarantine arrangements for the faculty member, the University has arranged for the faculty to stay at the Conference Lodge, in isolation, to minimize the risk. A notice was also put up in Tower D where the couple resides to inform the residents.

As a precautionary measure, the University is thoroughly sterilizing the common areas including the lift lobby of Tower D as well as cleaning and sanitizing the facilities and places visited by them since March 21. Although the Hong Kong government does not require people living in a building where confirmed cases are reported to undergo self-quarantine, any resident living in Tower D who would like to do so voluntarily, or conduct the coronavirus test, should contact the Health, Safety and Environment office for advice. The University will offer necessary assistance and support.

We are now reaching out to those who may have had contact with the subject persons over the past 14 days. We will render them all necessary assistance and advise them to seek medical help from local authorities as appropriate.

We will continue updating the HSEO portal on the latest information on confirmed, suspected, and quarantine cases concerning the HKUST community members. You can visit the portal at this link: <https://hseo.ust.hk/ncov>

We urge and remind all members to observe social distancing and minimize human contact to lower the risk of contracting the disease.

Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation. Please stay healthy and take care.

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