Update on Quarantine Arrangements

Wednesday, Nov 25, 2020, 14:31PM

Dear Members of the University,

In light of the continued COVID-19 pandemic and Government requirements, the University is updating quarantine support as stated below. Students should note the change in charging for University <u>managed/ arranged</u> quarantine facilities (i.e. Conference Lodge and L'hotel Island South) as from 1st January 2021.

As we plan to hold classes in mixed mode for the coming Winter and Spring terms, students are not required to be physically on campus to complete the class and examination arrangements. However, if students have a genuine reason to travel back to campus, the University will try to provide the support through the University managed quarantine facilities at subsidized rate, based on the following eligibility criteria and subject to availability of quarantine spaces.

Eligibility for University managed quarantine facilities (i.e. Conference Lodge)

- All students with a confirmed University hostel place.
- Newly recruited University staff eligible for on-campus accommodation.
- Staff members granted exceptional approval for business travel.
- Only those returning from regions categorized by the Government as low risk from time to time

Eligibility for other University arranged quarantine facilities (i.e. L'hotel Island South)

- All students with a confirmed University hostel place.
- Newly recruited University staff eligible for on-campus accommodation.
- Staff members granted exceptional approval for business travel.

Facilities

- The University will continue to use Conference Lodge and L'hotel Island South for all University arranged quarantine both of which are subject to availability and in compliance with the relevant Government regulations about the use of suitable facilities for quarantine. The Conference Lodge will be available only to those returning from regions categorized by the Government as low risk.
- In the event there is insufficient capacity in the University managed/ arranged quarantine facilities (i.e. Conference Lodge and L'hotel Island South), students and staff should make their own arrangements for quarantine. The Government has produced <u>a list of hotels</u> supporting quarantine and the University has obtained the quarantine package charging rates from <u>some</u>. Both lists are available via the University's COVID-19 website: <u>Quarantine Arrangements | COVID-19 Info@HKUST</u>.

Charging

- The current charging for students will remain until 31st December 2020. As from 1st January 2021, all students staying in both University managed/arranged quarantine facilities will pay a subsidized daily rate of \$470. All students undertaking quarantine at any location other than the University managed/arranged facilities will be responsible for the full cost.
- The University will pay quarantine charges for newly recruited faculty and staff members and for faculty and staff granted exceptional approval for business travel, provided the quarantine charges are pre-approved.
- All members staying in a University managed/ arranged quarantine facility will pay for their own food costs.
- Any students with financial hardship are reminded that they can apply to the University's COVID-19 Hardship Relief Fund for assistance.

<u>Booking</u>

- Students should contact the respective offices to confirm eligibility and receive authorization to book rooms through the online system:
 - URAO for new UG, SHRLO for continuing UG
 - Academic Schools for new and continuing RPG.
- Existing faculty and staff with exceptional approval for business travel should contact CSO about quarantine in the first instance.
- Newly recruited faculty and staff should contact HRO on quarantine and related onboarding arrangements.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued understanding and support for all the measures we have taken to safeguard our campus during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kind regards,

Wei Shyy, President Lionel Ni, Provost Mark Hodgson, VPAB