Kochi University's Response to COVID-19 (Report No. 13)

To students, faculty, and staff

Kochi University has updated its response to COVID-19.

Kochi University has determined to take the following measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection for the time being from May 24, 2021. Students (including kindergarten children and students at affiliated schools) and faculty and staff are requested to read through the following guidance and materials and act to prevent the spread of infection.

Some of the measures under the Guidance may be relaxed or tightened based on prudent judgment in accordance with the change in the circumstances. We will continue to keep you updated, so please regularly check our website and KULAS even during long vacation periods.


○ Guidance on Infection Prevention and Control for Covid-19 for faculty members [Ninth report]

○ Guidance on Infection Prevention and Control for Covid-19 for staff [Eighth report]

1. Health management

(1) The symptoms of COVID-19 are diverse: a high fever, respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, sore throat, running nose and blocked nose), headache, fatigue, diarrhea, vomiting, etc. If you experience any of the aforementioned symptoms, please undergo a diagnosis at the nearest medical institution cooperating with tests or see your primary doctor after making a reservation by phone without fail. When you undergo a diagnosis, you will be required to wear a mask without fail and to follow the instructions of the relevant medical institution.

If it has been determined that you will undertake a test for COVID-19, please report the same to the contact point described in Section 9, “Contact us.”

* You may undertake a test for COVID-19 using healthcare services provided by health insurance only if the relevant doctor has deemed that you may be likely to suffer from COVID-19. You may not undertake such test if you just have a vague feeling of insecurity that you might be infected by COVID-19 or if your company has requested that you submit a negative certification, etc.
Moreover, in order for the government of Kochi Prefecture and Kochi City to respond to consultation from prefectural residents concerning COVID-19, the COVID-19 Health Consultation Center (Tel: 088-823-9300) has been established.

(2) Please promptly report to the contact point described in Section 9, “Contact us” if any of the following apply.
   1) If you have been infected with COVID-19.
   2) If you have been in close contact with a person infected with COVID-19.
   3) If you have been in close contact with those who have been in close contact with an infected person (secondary contacted persons).
   4) If you experience a fever or other symptoms of a cold.

2. Daily life
(1) Please measure your body temperature every morning. If you experience a fever or symptoms of a cold, you will be prohibited from visiting or attending work at the University.
(2) Please take basic measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, e.g. sanitize your hands and fingers, wear a mask, do not talk loudly, ventilate a room (open windows at opposite sides of a room at the same time), maintain a distance of at least 1 m from others.
(3) Please avoid the “Three Cs” (i.e., closed spaces with poor ventilation, crowded places with many people nearby, and close-contact settings such as those in close-range conversations).
(4) In addition to the above, please take infection prevention and control measures as shown in the Practical Examples for “A New Lifestyle” publicly announced by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

   Practical Examples for “A New Lifestyle” (website of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)
   https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000121431_newlifestyle.html
(5) Please refrain from entering stores and/or facilities for which appropriate measures for infectious diseases (e.g., placement of sanitizers, staff members’ wearing of masks, ventilation, and measures for avoidance of Three Cs) have not been undertaken, including for the purpose of taking opportunities for part-time jobs.
(6) Please refrain from entering restaurants/bars while undertaking entertainment, karaoke boxes, and live music clubs for the time being, including for the purpose of taking opportunities for part-time jobs.
(7) Please avoid having a meal with people other than your family or close friends. If you have to, keep the number of people you have a meal with to a minimum as much as possible and spend as little time as possible.
(8) You may use COVID-19 Contact-Confirming Application (COCOA) recommended by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare if you agree to the terms of use.
COVID-19 Contact-Confirming Application (website of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)
https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/cocoa_00138.html
(9) There are examples for “5 situations” that increase the risk of infection (e.g., long meals in large groups). Therefore, please undertake infection prevention and control measures in reference to such information as well.
“5 situations” that increase the risk of infection (webpage of Cabinet Secretariat)
https://corona.go.jp/proposal/

3. Measures for students
(1) Classes, etc.
You are allowed to come to campus if you need to do so for study or campus life needs, but you should restrict your movements as much as possible while on campus and go home as soon as you finish your business.
Please pay attention to the following, take lessons, and endeavor to prevent the spread of infection.
1) If you are infected with COVID-19
   (i) Please promptly contact the University (see Section 9, “Contact us”) and follow the public health center’s instruction until you have recovered.
   (ii) You are prohibited from coming to the University until you have recovered.

2) If you have been in close contact with a person infected with COVID-19
   Please immediately report it to the University (see Section 9, “Contact us”) and follow the following instructions.
   (i) When you have been identified as having been in close contact with an infected person, follow the public health center’s instructions for PCR test and the watchful waiting period at home.
   (ii) Even if you have not been identified as having been in close contact with an infected person but have been likely to be in contact with such person, please stay home at least for six days to see if any symptom develops.
   (iii) If you might have been in close contact with a person having been in close contact with an infected person, please stay home to see if any symptom develops until the person having been in close contact with the infected person has been judged as being negative.
   (iv) You are prohibited from attending the University during the watchful waiting period.

3) If you have a fever or other symptoms of a cold
   (i) If you experience a high fever or symptoms of a cold (sneezing, runny nose, blocked nose, a cough, sore throat, fatigue, joint pain, etc.), please report it to the University (see Section 9, “Contact us”) and stay home to see if the symptom further develops. Please also report it to the University (see Section 9, “Contact us”) when the fever has subsided or symptoms have improved.
(ii) Regularly check your health even after 24 hours or more has passed since the fever subsided and after cold-like symptoms have improved.

(iii) You are prohibited from attending the University until a period of 24 hours or more has passed since the fever has subsided and cold-like symptoms have improved.

Note: Because of the prohibition from coming to the University, due to the infection or the necessity to be under the watchful waiting period, your absence will be treated as an “exception absence” to avoid any disadvantage for your academic performance during the targeted period. Students who have turned out to be necessary to be under the watchful waiting period or the period of prohibition of attending the University are required to report their condition regularly to their department (major) and follow the instruction of their department heads (heads of majors) when attending the University.

(2) Use of Library and Information Technology

You are allowed to use the library as usual, however, please see information posted on the library webpage concerning temporary closure, change of opening hours, and points to note for use.

Main Library: http://www.lib.kochi-u.ac.jp/library/chuokan/
Medical School Branch: http://www.kochi-ms.ac.jp/~of_librry/tosyokan.htm
Monobe Branch: http://www.lib.kochi-u.ac.jp/library/hobun/

(3) Use of the Health Service Center

Please call or email us if you want to seek advice on your health (or mental health and well-being) or to have a medical examination. Please do not visit us before you call or email us. If you need advice on COVID-19, we may ask you not to visit us, but instead we may advise you to visit an external medical institution (or a medical institution offering COVID-19 tests).

Information on how to use the Health Service Center can be found on its webpage at https://www.kochi-u.ac.jp/hokekan/.

Opening days and hours:
Weekdays except Saturday, Sunday, and holidays
8:30 a.m. through 5:15 p.m. (10:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. for Monobe Branch Office)

(Asakura) Health Service Center: Phone: 088-844-8158, gs08★kochi-u.ac.jp
(Oko) Health Service Center, Oko Branch Office:
  Phone: 088-880-2581, gs11★kochi-u.ac.jp
(Monobe) Health Service Center, Monobe Branch Office:
  Phone: 088-864-5121, gs09★kochi-u.ac.jp

(Please change "★" to "@" when sending email.)

4. Measures for faculty and staff

Faculty and staff are asked to avoid thoroughly the “Three Cs” (i.e., closed spaces with poor ventilation, crowded places with many people nearby, and close-contact settings such as those in close-range conversations) and implement services after close
examination. They are requested to shift to work at home when working in services for which such a shift is possible.

(1) If you are infected with COVID-19
   1) Please promptly report it to the University (see Section 9, “Contact us”) and follow the public health center’s instruction until you have recovered.
   2) You are prohibited from attending the University to work until you have recovered.

(2) If you have been in close contact with a person infected with COVID-19
   Please immediately report it to your department head and follow the following instructions.
   1) When you have been identified as having been in close contact with an infected person, follow the public health center’s instructions for PCR test and the watchful waiting period at home.
   2) Even if you have not been identified as having been in close contact with an infected person but have been likely to be in contact with such person, please stay home at least for six days to see if any symptom develops.
   3) If you might have been in close contact with a person having been in close contact with an infected person, please stay home to see if any symptom develops until the person having been in close contact with the infected person has been judged as being negative.
   4) When you find that you had been in close contact with an infected person during working hours, please return home immediately.

(3) If you have a fever or other symptoms of a cold
   1) If you experience a high fever or symptoms of a cold (sneezing, runny nose, blocked nose, a cough, sore throat, fatigue, joint pain, etc.), please report it immediately to your department to prohibit you from attending the University to work.
   2) If you experience a fever, you are prohibited from attending the University to work until after 24 hours or more has passed since the fever subsided and after cold-like symptoms have improved.
   3) Regularly check your health even after 24 hours or more has passed since the fever subsided and after cold-like symptoms have improved.
   4) If a fever or other symptoms have developed during working hours, please return home immediately. The period during which you are prohibited from attending the University to work shall be treated based on the Work Rules as under “Work Prohibited” to avoid any disadvantage for your salary over the period.

Note: For faculty and staff, the period of prohibition from attending the University to work shall be treated either as “Work Prohibited” or “teleworking.” Faculty and staff who have turned out to be necessary to be under Work Prohibited shall report their condition regularly to their department and follow the instruction of their department heads when attending the University.

5. Traveling to other prefectures
   (1) If you travel within Japan, you should check the COVID-19 situation at your destination. Refrain from traveling to “infection spread areas.”
(2) Traveling to areas which fall into “infection spread areas” and under the declaration of a state of emergency (including those issued by municipalities) is not allowed in principle (refrain from it for private purposes). When travel to such areas for a business reason under unavoidable circumstances, please obtain permission from the President through the head of your department.

(3) If you have traveled to infection spread areas under unavoidable circumstances (excluding cases where you have passed such areas while traveling to your destination), stand by at home for follow-up observation for 14 days following the day on which you have traveled to Kochi Prefecture.

Moreover, if you have traveled to regions in which COVID-19 is widespread other than infection spread areas, please pay attention to your health condition for 14 days following the day on which you have moved to Kochi Prefecture to see if any symptom develops.

(4) If Kochi Prefecture is among the “infection spread areas,” refrain from traveling to other prefectures.

* Definition of “infection spread area”: Prefecture in which the number of newly infected persons during the most recent seven days is 15 or more per 100,000 persons of the population (depending upon “Indicators for Stage 3 (Rapid increase of infected persons)” for infection status organized by the Government Subcommittee on COVID-19 Measures) [https://www.cas.go.jp/p/seisaku/ful/bunkakai/kongo_soutei_taisaku.pdf]

* Please check the status of each prefecture using the following webpages, etc. [https://web.sapmed.ac.jp/canmol/coronavirus/japan.html?y=0] [https://hazard.yahoo.co.jp/article/20200813#number] [https://www3.nhk.or.jp/news/special/coronavirus/data/#latest-weeks-card]

* Academic treatment during the period of standing by at home should not cause disadvantages to students.
* The faculty and staff will work at home during the period in which they are staying at home (excluding medical personnel).
* If Kochi Prefecture is among the “infection spread areas,” you do not need to stay at home even if you travel within Kochi Prefecture. Nevertheless, you should monitor your health.

6. Traveling overseas and acceptance of researchers and the like returning from overseas or those from overseas

Currently, travel advice and warning of infectious diseases of Level 2 (avoid non-essential travel) or above has been issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan for all countries. Taking such circumstances into account, the University requests that the students, faculty, and staff follow the following instructions concerning overseas travel for the time being.

(1) Overseas travel by students, faculty, and staff

Avoid non-essential travel to countries or regions in which travel advice and warning of infectious diseases of Level 2 or above has been issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. If it is necessary to travel to the aforementioned countries or regions under
unavoidable circumstances, a crisis management system for dispatch and a support system for return to Japan should be implemented at each department. Subsequently, please obtain the approval of the President. When traveling overseas in private, please submit prior notification of overseas traveling in conformance with the aforementioned procedures.

(2) Returning to and entering Japan from foreign countries

In accordance with the instructions of quarantine officials, persons returning to and entering Japan from foreign countries should stay at locations (e.g., home) designated by the quarantine station chiefs for a watchful waiting period of 14 days following the day on which they entered Japan. In addition, such persons should arrange on their own the follow-up observation location and means of transportation for traveling without using public transportation facilities from arrival airports, etc. to such follow-up observation locations.

(3) Acceptance of researchers and the like from overseas

When you intend to accept researchers from foreign countries, you will be required to apply for approval of such researchers as foreign researchers at Kochi University in advance. Moreover, please accept them after a structure for response to quarantine measures implemented by the national government has been well prepared by the relevant departments accepting such researchers, such as movement restrictions and follow-up observations. In addition, researchers who would have an employment relationship with the University will be subject to (1) and (2) above.

(4) Implementation of students' studying abroad, short-term overseas training programs, etc.

Please follow the separately determined “FY 2021 Policy for Implementing Student Exchanges (Dispatching and Acceptance) and Short-term Overseas Training Programs.”

(5) Temporary return home of foreign students and reentry to Japan

With reference to (1) and (2) above, relevant departments should individually make relevant appropriate judgments.

* Students are prohibited from coming to the University during the watchful waiting period; however, absence will not bring any disadvantage to their academic performance during the period.
* For faculty and staff, the period of prohibition from attending the University to work will be treated based on the work rules either as “suspension of working” or “teleworking” to avoid any salary disadvantages during the period.
* Faculty members and staff, students, and foreign researchers should report their health conditions to the department head, the department (major) and the department accepting foreign researchers, respectively, during the watchful waiting period with use of the attached “Health Condition Reporting Sheet.” When going to the University to work or study after the watchful waiting period, follow the instructions of their department heads.
* Because responses to international traveling/movements by each nation are fluid, please endeavor to confirm the latest information issued by the Japanese government, states to which you travel, etc.
7. Holding of social gatherings, events, etc.
(1) Suspend or postpone face-to-face social gatherings or events for the time being. If it is difficult to do so under unavoidable circumstances, please obtain approval of the President via your department head in advance.
(2) Refrain from face-to-face social gatherings or events held by parties other than the University and do not attend if appropriate infection control measures have not been put in place.
(3) We will not make the University’s facilities available for face-to-face social gatherings or events held by parties other than the University that are main parties for implementation.
(4) The University will not support or co-host face-to-face social gatherings or events where the implementation of infection prevention and control measures cannot be checked.

8. Handling of salary of people whose work is suspended due to the prohibition of entry into the university grounds
(1) Regarding people whose work is suspended due to closure of the Library and Information Technology at night and on holidays, as of March 2, 2020, the University will ensure that people whose work is suspended will not be disadvantaged in terms of salary for the subject period, only in cases where they had been expected to work originally during such period of suspension.
(2) The University will ensure that people whose work is suspended due to the prohibition of entry into the university grounds will not be disadvantaged in terms of salary for the subject period.

9. Contact us
(1) Matters related to Japanese students
  o If infected with COVID-19, under the watchful waiting period, or experiencing cold symptoms
    (Asakura) Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences Program
      E-mail: gm15@kochi-u.ac.jp, Phone: 088-844-8649
    Faculty of Education, Education Program, Program for Advanced Professional Development in Teacher Education
      E-mail: gm16@kochi-u.ac.jp, Phone: 088-844-8653
    Faculty of Science and Technology, Science and Technology Program, Science Program, Applied Science Program
      E-mail: gm17@kochi-u.ac.jp, Phone: 088-844-8742
    Faculty of Regional Collaboration, Regional Collaboration Program, TSP
      E-mail: gm24@kochi-u.ac.jp, Phone: 088-844-8903
    (Oko) Medical School
      E-mail: ia21@kochi-u.ac.jp, Phone: 088-880-2262
      Medical Science Program, Nursing Science Program, Medicine Program
      E-mail: ia20@kochi-u.ac.jp, Phone: 088-880-2290
(Monobe) Faculty of Agriculture and Marine Science, Agriculture and Marine Science Program, Agricultural Science Program
E-mail: km12@kochi-u.ac.jp, Phone: 088-864-5168
Kuroshio Science Program
E-mail: km14@kochi-u.ac.jp, Phone: 088-864-5116

For medical advice
(Asakura) Health Service Center Phone: 088-844-8158
(Oko) Health Service Center, Oko Branch Office Phone: 088-880-2581
(Monobe) Health Service Center, Monobe Branch Office Phone: 088-864-5121

Note: In particular, if you are suspected of having become infected with COVID-19 or you have a symptom about which you should contact the Kochi Prefecture/City COVID-19 Health Consultation Center (see "1. Health management (1)"), get a diagnosis from a medical institution cooperating with tests for COVID-19 within Kochi Prefecture or contact the Kochi Prefecture/City COVID-19 Health Consultation Center.

Other matters
Student Counseling Room Phone: 088-888-8010

Advice for students with underlying medical conditions (weakened immune system, respiratory diseases, and diabetes)
Office for the promotion of inclusion and accessibility
E-mail: shugakushien@kochi-u.ac.jp, Phone: 088-888-8037

(2) Matters related to international students
International Exchange Office
E-mail: kr03@kochi-u.ac.jp, Phone: 088-844-8683

(3) Matters related to faculty and staff
Personnel Division, Safety and Health Supervisor
Other than Oko Campus:
E-mail: kj04@kochi-u.ac.jp, Phone: 088-844-8736
Oko Campus:
E-mail: kj04@kochi-u.ac.jp, Phone: 088-880-2222
Note: Contact your departments for measures related to Work Prohibition.

(4) Other matters
General Affairs Supervisor, General Affairs Division
E-mail: ks04@kochi-u.ac.jp, Phone: 088-844-8116

10. More information
- Kochi University Health Service Centers (Warnings)
  http://www.kochi-u.ac.jp/hokekan/
- Cabinet Secretariat
  https://corona.go.jp/
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  https://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp/
· Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
  https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000164708_00001.html
· Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
· Kochi Prefecture
· COVID-19 Health Consultation Center (Kochi City)
· Medical institutions cooperating with tests for COVID-19 within Kochi Prefecture (website of the government of Kochi Prefecture)
  https://www.pref.kochi.lg.jp/soshiki/130401/cov19_kensakyouryoku.html
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【緊急連絡先 Emergency Contact】下記は学生、関係者、外国人研究者等から報告を受ける人が入力してください。

The following information should be entered by a person receiving reports from students, members, foreign researchers, etc.

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