

Measures to be Taken by Higher Education Institutions in Response to the Situation Caused by the Novel Coronavirus

In light of the confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus in Macao, for the purpose of lowering the risk of the spread of the virus, it is agreed unanimously that the restart date of classes will be postponed, after the Higher Education Bureau examined the situation with ten higher education institutions and the collaboration entities operating authorized non-local higher education programmes in Macao. Date of resumption of classes will be determined and announced later depending on the development of the outbreak of the virus.

With the further development of the novel coronavirus epidemic, health authorities also expect the epidemic will continue. The Higher Education Bureau has required all higher education institutions and the local collaboration entities¹ to strictly implement the epidemic prevention measures under the guidelines of the Health Services Bureau and the Higher Education Bureau.

1. In terms of teaching activities, due to the severity and continuity of the epidemic, institutions can adopt other teaching methods different from the original curriculum plan. For example, institutions can provide study materials to students through school website, distance learning or other effective methods, for the students to learn at home. To ensure the quality of such teaching activities, institutions should pay attention to:

1.1 If any teaching activities are to be conducted by distance learning in order to replace the original face-to-face teaching

¹The collaboration entities operating authorized non-local higher education programmes in Macao may refer to this guideline and coordinate the related arrangements with relevant non-local institutions.

during this period, institutions should ensure that students can get the relevant materials and information in advance from appropriate channels (e.g. via email and student intranet, etc.), especially information about the lecture time, form and content, so that students can prepare in advance.

1.2 Distance learning is one of the teaching methods that can be used in this special case. Therefore, if it is necessary or requested by the students, institutions may consider supplementary face-to-face teaching after the resumption of classes, to explain the content that has been taught in distance mode. The learning results obtained by students in distance learning should be the same as the face-to-face teaching method. Institutions can give corresponding scores and credits, but the requirements of examination must be the same as the original curriculum plan.

1.3 If some teaching content cannot be conducted by distance learning, such as experiment classes, institutions should make appropriate adjustment or provide supplementary lectures after the class resumption.

1.4 Institutions should take measures to prevent any delay of graduation time of students due to the suspension of classes and the impact of the epidemic this time. For example, after the resumption of classes, when conditions permit, institutions can arrange supplementary lectures for students as soon as possible, or adjust the teaching progress accordingly.

2. Institutions should communicate and work through various types of telecommunications or the Internet to avoid staff from gathering.

3. Institutions should keep the campus open and arrange enough staff on duty to handle general affairs and answer enquiries from students, parents and teaching staff.

4. Institutions should make good use of this period to prepare for future class resumption, such as preparing items for cleaning and disinfection. In addition, institutions should thoroughly clean the campus to ensure a clean and sanitary environment, while strengthening health education. For details, please refer to the recommendations of the Health Services Bureau:

https://www.ssm.gov.mo/docs/16947/16947_17c239bfedb1455c9e7ce91479bb2398_000.pdf

5. Institutions should adopt contingency measures and make various arrangements, relating to campus facilities and campus catering services etc. Also, inform students as soon as possible with information about cancellation or postponement of examinations and tests.

6. Institutions should remind students and staff etc., to avoid staying in crowded places. For those who have spent the Chinese New Year holiday in Mainland China or outside Macao should return to Macao as early as possible, when conditions permit, and make self-observation at home, in order to reduce the risk of infection and transmission. Due to the virus has an incubation period, those should stay alert to their health condition and seek medical advice at once when feeling unwell.

7. Mainland China students of Macao's higher education institutions, who have returned to the Mainland, should stay at home and not to return to Macao for the time being. They are recommended to stay at

the home and undertake self-observation, until the resumption of classes.

8. Institutions should also cancel group activities on or off campus (such as campus visits etc.) with students, parents, and teaching staff notified to reduce the risk of virus transmission.

9. As the further development of the novel coronavirus epidemic in Wuhan, Hubei Province and other provinces and cities in Mainland China, institutions should suspend and postpone related exchange activities to the Mainland to protect the health of teachers and students. If institutions intend to continue the arranged overseas (excluding Mainland) exchange activities, it is advised to conduct a risk assessment, including the number of students participating, the safety of the regions or places etc., when crowded places should be avoided.

10. For places where the novel coronaviruses may spread, please refer to the Special webpage against Epidemics of the Health Services Bureau:

<https://www.ssm.gov.mo/apps1/PreventWuhanInfection/en.aspx#clg17047>

The Higher Education Bureau will continuously and closely monitor the development of the epidemic, and maintain close communication with higher education institutions and the collaboration entities operating non-local higher education programmes in Macao, to take proper measures promptly to ensure the safety of higher education students. Institutions should pay close attention to the relevant information issued by Macao SAR government and release it to students and staff in time.

Higher Education Bureau

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