

Update on the Response Actions for the Novel Coronavirus

Task Force on Response Actions for the Novel Coronavirus

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Dear Students and Colleagues

With the increasing number of deaths and confirmed cases related to the new strain of coronavirus originating in Wuhan, Hubei Province and the two confirmed cases in Hong Kong, we wish to update you on the immediate contingency measures the University has implemented as well as provide some health advice on how to protect yourself against infectious diseases.

A Task Force on Response Actions for Wuhan Pneumonia has been set up to closely monitor the situation, devise prevention and control measures, as well as coordinate prevention efforts with various other parties. The Faculty of Health and Social Sciences have suspended students' clinical training/attachments. The University has also stepped up cleaning and disinfection efforts on campus and in student hostels. Disinfection alcohol gel dispensers have been installed and are regularly refilled at the major entrances to the campus and student hostels.

As the novel coronavirus is spreading rapidly, the following measures will also be implemented with immediate effect:

- All hall residents and visitors are required to have temperature checks and to declare their recent travel history at student hostel entrances.
- All patients are required to have temperature checks and to declare their recent travel history at the University Health Service Clinic.
- Staff / students who have returned from anywhere outside Hong Kong should observe their health condition closely. Within the first 14 days of returning from Wuhan or other affected areas, they should monitor their body temperature and wear a surgical mask. If feeling unwell, they should seek medical consultation promptly and inform their doctor of their recent travel history.

A video to promote health awareness and the proper way to wash hands and wear surgical masks is being broadcast at our student hostels. The University will continue to closely monitor the situation as well as the news from the Centre for Health

Protection (CHP) under the Department of Health, HKSAR. We will disseminate important updates and health messages to staff and students.

For more details about the Severe Respiratory Disease, you may visit the website of the Health, Safety & Environment Office or click the following hyperlink:

[https://www.polyu.edu.hk/hseo/images/sso/pdf/Severe Respiratory Disease associated with Novel Infectious Agent Webpage R5.pdf](https://www.polyu.edu.hk/hseo/images/sso/pdf/Severe_Respiratory_Disease_associated_with_Novel_Infectious_Agent_Webpage_R5.pdf)

Additional resources can be found on the CHP website:

<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/102465.html>

The spread of the new coronavirus may evolve, and human-to-human transmissions may emerge within households, hospitals and communities. It is of utmost importance that all of us adopt sufficient preventive measures such as wearing a surgical mask and obtaining medical advice immediately if feeling unwell. We should also maintain strict personal hygiene at all times and stay vigilant against infectious diseases.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Leung (3400 8389) or Dennis Lai (3400 8393) of HSEO.

Andy Tong

Chair, Task Force on Response Actions for the Novel Coronavirus