



## Announcement of Mahidol University Safety and Precaution Measures Regarding the COVID-19

Due to the rapid outbreak of the COVID-19, the meeting of the Emergency Committee convened by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 30 January 2020 advised that the virus is a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC). The decision was advised to enhance preparedness in other regions of the world to prevent cross-border transmission. It was not a recommendation leading to any travel or trade restriction against the People's Republic of China.

On 22 January 2020, the Ministry of Public Health (Thailand) lifted up the Emergency Operation Center to level 3 as to closely monitor the situation as well as to address the efficiency of the system to track down those infected with the COVID-19. On 23 January 2020, the Ministry of Public Health has leveled up the virus alert system among travelers with the key information for all travelers to avoid traveling to the countries/territories/ areas with cases surge as identified by the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health (DDC), and the WHO.

Accordingly, Mahidol University advises that all faculties/colleges/centers monitor the outbreak of the COVID-19 along the line of the recommendations and advices by the DDC, Ministry of Public Health, as follows:

### 1. Precaution and monitoring measures in the Faculties/Colleges/Centers include:

1.1 To raise awareness through communication materials such as posters or video clips on how to prevent the transmission and infection of the COVID-19 through hand washing and the surgical mask wearing.

1.2 To provide washing liquids and alcohol gels in various locations including the building entrance, office spaces, laboratories, classrooms, cafeterias, gymnasiums and so on.

1.3 To sanitize equipment and areas where the public are usually exposed to, for example, lifts, handrails, door knobs, desks, computers and so on.

1.4 To sanitize student and staff's activity areas including classrooms, computer rooms, gymnasium, clubs and student unions.

1.5 To sanitize the transportation serviced by the faculties/colleges/centers such as cars, executive cars, shuttle buses, trams and the university buses, especially in the areas exposed to the public including door knobs, handrails, seats and armrests.

1.6 To encourage students and staff to use their own personal utensils, cups, handkerchiefs and avoid sharing personal effects with others.

1.7 To impose screening measures for foreign guests and visitors, students and staff who have traveled to and from as well as transit through the infected countries/territories/areas and also areas with cases surge. These measures includes, for example, temperature checks or the provision of free surgical masks for all 'risk groups'. The definitions of the 'risk groups' are:

1.7.1 those who have traveled to and from or transit through the countries/territories/areas being reported as infected or have cases surge of the COVID-19;

1.7.2 those who have a history of taking care of person(s) with suspected COVID-19 infection or contracted the viruses themselves;

1.7.3 those who are medical doctors, medical staff or healthcare personnel having been exposed to person(s) with suspected COVID-19 infection;

1.7.4 those who have obtained symptoms, such as a body temperature of 37.5 degree Celsius or higher, together with any respiratory symptoms, including coughing, sore throats, running nose, or difficulty breathing.

1.8 To set up a point of contact at the faculties/colleges/centers level to liaise with the Risk Management Center, Mahidol University in matters relating to the COVID-19.

2. Measures for Mahidol University's students and staff traveling to and from as well as transit through infected countries/territories/areas and those who are unable to avoid traveling to the areas with cases surge

2.1 'students and staff' are advised to report to their faculties/colleges/centers leadership upon their returns from the infected countries/territories/areas as well as the areas with cases surge.

2.2 'students and staff' are advised to observe their conditions for 14 days after their returns from the infected countries/territories/areas. If there is an emergence of any

respiratory symptoms, including coughing, sore throats, running nose or difficulty breathing, it is advised to immediately seek medical consultation from a reliable healthcare provider or to obtain a COVID-19 screening test. It is obligatory to immediately report back to their respective leadership at the faculties/colleges/centers.

2.3 'students and staff' who have traveled to and from or transit through the areas with cases surge identified by the DDC, Ministry of Public Health and the WHO are to be placed on 14-day paid leave-of-absence starting from the day of arrival and to regularly report back to their respective leadership at the faculties/colleges/centers.

2.4 'Faculty/College Deans and Center Directors' are advised to report to the Risk Management Center, Mahidol University at: Tel. No.: 0-2849-6150/0-2849-6152 to 5 or at email address: murmc@mahidol.ac.th in the case of any suspicion relating to the COVID-19.

In order to collectively control the COVID-19 outbreak, it is advised for all faculties/colleges/centers to monitor the updated situation and observe the recommendations from the DDC, Ministry of Public Health and the WHO regularly.

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