

August 10, 2020

### **APU student novel coronavirus infections**

To the residents of Oita Prefecture and Beppu City:

You have likely heard recently in the news or other media that a total of 14 APU students and graduates have tested positive for the novel coronavirus in the three days from August 8 through August 10. These cases have surely been a cause for concern for the citizens of the city and the prefecture. At the same time, we would like to express our deep gratitude for the many words of warm encouragement we received for the infected students. APU takes this situation seriously and will continue to make every effort to prevent the spread of infection, while seeking guidance from Oita Prefecture and public health centers.

The students who have contracted the virus have not traveled out of the prefecture for the two weeks before the infection was discovered, and because classes for the spring semester have been conducted entirely online, they have not been to the APU campus.

I must apologize for the concern this has caused to the citizens of the city and the prefecture who have been so supportive through community activities and part-time work opportunities. I am afraid that this may force some restaurants and businesses to close temporarily, which will doubtless affect the lives of many people.

In these current conditions anyone can be infected by the coronavirus. Yesterday I made another strong appeal to our students to do their part in preventing the spread of this infection by not attending dining parties, avoiding the "three Cs" (closed spaces, crowded places, and close- contact settings), and installing the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's contact tracing app. We will continue to provide thorough guidance to our students.

APU students—both domestic students from all over Japan as well as international students from around the world—have grown and developed with the support of everyone in Beppu and Oita Prefecture, sharing many precious experiences together. Beppu and Oita are very dear to our students and alumni, and many of them consider this their second home. I hope that the citizens of the city and the prefecture will continue to watch over APU's students with warmth and care.

Haruaki Deguchi  
President  
Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University