

April 1, 2021

To All APU Students,

Cases of COVID-19 Identified at our University: Please Pay Attention to Help Prevent the Spread of Infection

As shown in the announcement below, recently a number of our students have been confirmed to have tested positive for COVID-19. In order to prevent further infections, we are cooperating with the health center to identify and test all close contacts of the infected students.

Students who have tested positive are being treated at an off-campus health facility designated by the prefecture.

Even students who received a negative test result are being asked to self-quarantine for a two-week period after the incidence of close contact.

To help prevent the further spread of infection, APU is suspending all extracurricular activities for a two-week period and all remaining new student orientation sessions will be held online only. Use of some campus facilities will also be limited.

Students, in addition to basic preventative measures like wearing a mask and sanitizing your hands, please be sure to follow the rules shown below in your daily lives.

- (1) Gatherings of multiple people that include eating and drinking are **completely forbidden!**
- (2) If you must travel outside the prefecture, please self-quarantine for a period of two weeks. During these two weeks, please avoid coming to on-campus classes and instead, attend classes online.
- (3) In some cases, infection has spread among roommates living in share houses. Please refrain from behavior such as visiting others' homes, etc.
- (4) If you have a fever, please do not push yourself – rest at home and attend your classes online.

#### **Positive COVID-19 Cases Identified at our University (April 1)**

Between March 21 and April 1, seven APU students were identified as testing positive for a mutated variant of COVID-19. In addition, one new student residing in AP House 3 also tested positive for COVID-19.

Further testing showed that no other residents of AP House were infected. The infected students are now undergoing treatment at a health center designated by the prefecture. In addition, it was also found that several members of an extracurricular group had also become infected. The university is following the direction of the health center and continuing to investigate those who have been in close contact with these patients.

In light of this situation, the university will carry out the following.

- For a two-week period starting April 1, all in-person extracurricular activities will be suspended
- All remaining new student orientations prior to the start of classes will be switched to online-only
- A strong warning is being sent to all students, including a request to monitor their health closely

We will take all possible preventative measures against infection in order to begin holding spring semester classes as planned on April 12.

In response to this situation, the APU Task Force will work with Oita Prefecture, Public Health Center, and other related organizations to further strengthen our measures to prevent the spread of infection.

APU has been implementing preventative measures and raising awareness among our students, faculty, and staff, and we are taking this news of an outbreak of multiple cases very seriously. Going forward we will work even harder to raise awareness of this issue so that each and every member of our community will take action to thoroughly protect ourselves and others from becoming infected.

Please check the site below for more information about our university's preventative measures and responses.  
<https://www.apu.ac.jp/home/notice/content3/>

We would like to deeply apologize for the concern this will cause our local community and all other related groups.

We ask for your understanding and consideration in respecting the human rights and protecting the privacy of the affected students and their families.

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University