

Preventive Measures for the Novel Coronavirus at Hokkaido University

The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 has increased rapidly in our country this month, and a state of emergency was declared for seven prefectures on April 7th. In Hokkaido, the number of new cases is once again increasing even though Hokkaido successfully lowered the number for a couple of weeks in March. Subsequently, Hokkaido and the city of Sapporo have issued a joint declaration of emergency on April 12th. At Hokkaido University, we recognize that we are facing a serious crisis having confirmed the second case of coronavirus in our community on April 8th. Taking all these matters into account, we have developed “Hokkaido University Business Continuity Plan during the Coronavirus Outbreak” (<https://www.global.hokudai.ac.jp/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2020.4.16-BCP-during-Coronavirus-Outbreak.pdf>).

On the evening of April 16th, a nationwide state of emergency was declared in accordance with Act on Special Measures, and Hokkaido is now a “High-risk prefecture.” We consider that we are at “Stage 2” (Restriction level: Medium) in our new Business Continuity Plan above, and strongly urge you to follow the guidelines provided. Although, we are disappointed that our in-person interactions must be limited at this time, stopping the spread of COVID-19 and ensuring our students, faculty and staff members’ safety are our highest priorities at the moment.

Hokkaido University will closely monitor the situation and adjust the level of emergency response as needed. We promise to notify you of any changes on our website as well as via email.

All of us at Hokkaido University must act together as a team to fight against this global crisis. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding.

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Masanori Kasahara
Acting President
Head of the COVID-19 Task Force
Hokkaido University