

Message from the President

I would like to thank all of you, the members of the Hokkaido University community, for your continued cooperation to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

As you may know, Hokkaido is placed under a state of emergency set forth in the Act on Special Measures against Novel influenza, etc. from the 16th to the 31st of May 2021. Prior to this decision, on May 14th, we at Hokkaido University have resolved to raise the alert level defined in the “Hokkaido University Business Continuity Plan During Coronavirus Outbreak (BCP)” from Alert Level 2 (restriction-medium level) to Alert Level 3 (restriction-high level) effective May 16th.

We understand the inconveniences all of you have been facing, in the areas of education and research for the faculty and staff members and in classes or extracurricular activities for the students. As a university, however, our utmost priority is your health and safety.

It is imperative that all members of the University community work together as a team to contain the spread of COVID-19 and overcome this hardship.

As a facility for education and research and a place of work, Hokkaido University is one of the largest in the area with a total of more than twenty thousand students, faculty and staff members. In addition, we have a particular responsibility towards the society, education and research, and conduct various COVID-19 research studies. The development of practical diagnostic methods and research on drugs that may become accessible to patients of the disease are gaining much attention. The University also owns the largest hospital in Hokkaido, the Hokkaido University Hospital, which is serving as the last bastion of regional medical care. I have recently visited the COVID-19 ward and saw the members of our University community such as doctors, nurses and administrative staff members are battling on the front-line of the pandemic now worsening day by day. Hokkaido University is not only a large place of employment but also serves as a platform in the society for education, research and medical care which is of paramount importance in the fight against COVID-19.

We must recognize the social missions of Hokkaido University as stated above. Please be sure to exercise self-control and remember to act in a way that prevents both infection and transmission.

May 19, 2021

HOUKIN Kiyohiro
President
Hokkaido University