

Hokkaido University Business Continuity Plan During Coronavirus Outbreak

The below Plan applies university-wide but shall be adjusted as appropriate by departments in accordance with their level of infection spread.
The Plan does not apply to medical staff and COVID-19 researchers.
The restrictive measures provided below are subject to continual review as the situation progresses through the Alert Levels.

Response Plan

History of Alert Levels	
April 17, 2020	Level 2
April 20, 2020	Level 3
June 1, 2020	Level 2
July 10, 2020	Level 1
November 18, 2020	Level 2
May 16, 2021	Level 3
June 21, 2021	Level 2
August 27, 2021	Level 3
October 1, 2021	Level 2
November 1, 2021	Level 1
January 24, 2022	Level 2
April 1, 2022	Level 1

Alert Level		Range of Measures					
		Risk Assessment	Research Activities	Classes (Lectures/Seminars/Experiments/Practical Training)	Student Extracurricular Activities	Offices	Meetings (incl. training/briefing/guidance)
Level 0	Normal times						
Level 1	Restriction - low level	Case(s) confirmed in the local population where the workplace is located in the area thereof. Certain staff members instructed to work from home to prevent possible infection spread and practice health and safety precautions.	Research activities not restricted when precautionary measures are in place.	Review the preventive measures against the COVID-19 spread implemented for each course. Face-to-face teaching authorized when adequate preventive measures are taken. Otherwise teaching shifted to online platforms.	Student extracurricular activities allowed when precautionary action is taken.	No changes needed in the scope of work in all departments. Staff partly instructed to work from home taking up assignments which can be done remotely.	Videoconferences and written deliberation using email encouraged. When organizing a meeting, take precautionary measures against infection.
Level 2	Restriction - medium level	A. 'Stay Home" on weekdays requested by the Governor of Hokkaido, or other movement restrictions imposed; or B. Case(s) confirmed among HU staff members. Measures to stop infection spread deployed and health and safety precautions implemented.	Research activities not restricted when precautionary measures are in place. All students, researchers and research staff ensure physical [social] distancing (Avoid 3Cs - Closed spaces, Crowded places and Close-contact settings). Hours spent in labs and offices reduced to the minimum required.	Review the preventive measures against COVID-19 spread implemented for each course. Face-to-face teaching authorized when adequate preventive measures are taken. Otherwise teaching shifted to online platforms.	Student extracurricular activities allowed when precautionary action is taken. Some activities may become restricted based on the request by the Governor of Hokkaido or the decision of HU.	Work prioritized and conducted with consideration given to the ratio of staff under the work-from-home arrangement. Staff partly instructed to work from home taking up assignments which can be done remotely.	Videoconferences and written deliberation using email conducted.
Level 3	Restriction - high level	State of Emergency declared by the Japanese government to carry out the provisions in the Act on Special Measures against Pandemic Flu (Act No. 31 of 2012). Prefecture of Hokkaido designated as one of the emergency areas across the country. Residents urged not to leave home (or equivalent) by the Governor of Hokkaido unless absolutely necessary to maintain everyday life, and to cooperate in any other areas to combat the spread of COVID-19.	Entry to labs permitted only to the below research staff (graduate students/researchers granted entry in special circumstances). Lab personnel should be on different shifts to enter whenever possible. 1) Those working on a long-run experiment which would suffer a tremendous loss with research work if suspended. 2) Those responsible to terminate or suspend operations of ongoing experiments. 3) Those who enter labs temporarily for supplying research materials or maintaining computer servers e.g. animal caring, filling up liquid nitrogen, refrigerator maintenance etc.	All classes delivered online. However, course instructors may partly resume in-person classes (of the required number of classes during a given semester) if necessary for effective teaching and learning upon the implementation of adequate preventive measures against COVID-19 spread. Students not allowed to use the Internet facilities on campus (exceptions may apply).	All activities canceled.	Work prioritized and conducted to maintain the minimum required level of University operations. Most of the staff instructed to work from home taking up assignments which can be done remotely.	All meetings postponed or canceled. Meetings to maintain the minimum required level of University operations however can be held via videoconferencing or written deliberation using email.
Level 4	Prohibition - high level	University and off-campus facilities closed.	Brief entry to labs permitted only to the below research staff when authorized by the head of their department. Lab personnel should be on different shifts to enter whenever possible. - Those who are engaged in supplying research materials or maintaining computer servers e.g. animal caring, filling up liquid nitrogen, refrigerator maintenance etc.	All classes canceled.	All activities canceled.	University facilities off-limits to all staff excluding the authorized personnel engaged in facilities maintenance.	All meetings postponed or canceled. Meetings to maintain the minimum required level of University operations however can be held via videoconferencing or written deliberation using email.