



**UPDATE ON THE CAMPUS PROACTIVE MEASURES TO PREVENT COVID-19 OCCURRENCE IN
AIMST UNIVERSITY**

Dear Parents and Students

Parents, we are aware that you may be anxious about the health and well-being of your children amidst the concerns about the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

We want to reassure you that the university is dedicated to actively monitor the situation and managing the impact for our students and staff.

AIMST University will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and act in compliance with directives from Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education and Malaysian Ministry of Health. I am writing to provide an update on the proactive steps AIMST University is taking to prevent the occurrence of the COVID-19 virus infection on our campus community.

Considering the recent development of the global COVID-19 outbreak please be advised that AIMST has put into action several measures to safeguard our community.

We have been consistently monitoring the staff and student mobility and whereabouts in campus. The body temperature of staff and students in and out of the campus are monitored at the entrance. Visitors have been banned from entering campus unless their entry is crucial to address certain unavoidable circumstances and these visitors are subjected to a more stringent evaluation prior to their entry into campus which includes body temperature scanning. All dental outpatient clinic's operation is suspended, and the outpatients are notified accordingly of the temporary shutdown of the dental hospital. All our monitoring and evaluation strategies have been in accordance to the Malaysia's Ministry of Health (MOH) guidelines.

All staff and students are strongly advised to avoid any non-essential travels, especially to all the areas marked as hotspot for COVID-19. All our staff have already been instructed to use online channels of communication for all meetings/discussion/collaborative initiatives instead of traveling and having face to face contact as a measure to reduce the risk of transmission. All staff and students are required to notify their travel whereabouts prior to any travel in order be advised on necessary quarantine measures in accordance to MOH.

We have also placed hand sanitizers around the campus and conducted consistent campus-wide sanitization. There are several key messages the University is communicating frequently with students and staff to help stop the spread of diseases like COVID-19:

- Avoid close contact with people with cold or flu-like illness
- Cover cough and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing
- Student and staff should stay home if they are unwell
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with water and soap and dry them thoroughly before eating or handling food, after using the toilet, after coughing, sneezing, blowing your nose and after caring for sick people.
- Also refrain from constantly touching your face

On a positive note, we are happy to note that there have been no positive COVID-19 cases so far reported on campus. Nevertheless we would take tireless measures from time to time to actively limit the spread of the virus in campus. One such measure would be moving all face to face lectures to online virtual learning using our Learning Management System (LMS). So, effective 18 March 2020, all classes will be conducted via e-learning platforms. All necessary guidelines on the usage of the online portal are being communicated to all existing and new students. All registrations, re-registrations and orientations are being done online to avoid gathering of people in large numbers at campus.

As far as examinations are concerned, the Ministry of Higher Education have given a clear directive to continue with examinations with certain precautionary measures taken prior/during the examination. Therefore, key Final Examinations for certain programmes which are unavoidable will however take place as scheduled on campus during this period with strict screening procedures in place.

The sports complex, swimming pool and the field will be closed during this time; therefore all sporting events and extra-curricular activities will be postponed till further notice. The Library, study areas, and other on-campus facilities are also not available during this time. You may continue to access learning resources required for your studies online. Support services will continue to operate and large number of these services will be moved online.

We truly understand that these actions would pose challenges for students and staff members, but in uncertain times like this it calls for prudent and proactive measures.

We also urge students, parent and staff to responsibly report to us if you have any symptoms, or if you have come in contact with anyone who has been tested positive for COVID-19, or if you travelled to any place which has cases of COVID-19, so that we can recommend to you proactive measures to protect yourselves and others. Also, feel free to report if anyone you know in campus that might have been exposed to the virus or are showing any symptoms of

exposure but is not coming forward. It only takes one case in campus to spread the virus. Please also take this online survey called “How to find out if I have coronavirus, online test” which has been created by the Ministry of Health to help in the preliminary self-assessment based online diagnosis test of COVID-19 based on your symptoms, <https://www.doctoroncall.com.my/coronavirus/how-to-find-out-if-i-have-coronavirus-online-test>.

I appreciate everyone’s patience and willingness to follow the changes in operations we have set forth. If you have any concerns, please contact any one of the following individuals:

Name	Phone Number
Dr. Kartik (Doctor)	011 - 6855935
Dr. Christina (Doctor)	016 - 4028484
Dr. Tin Soe (Doctor)	012 - 5499779
Dr. Patrick Tan (Doctor)	016 - 5570498
Dr. Leela Anthony (Deputy Dean, FOM)	012 - 9137847
Dr. Kathiresan (Registrar)	012 - 4922101
Prof Manickam Ravichandran (Dean, FAS)	012 - 9595269
Dr. Sivachandran (Lecturer)	017 - 5817018

NOTE: We would encourage the students to stay in campus rather than travelling back home which would increase the risk of contracting the virus. However, if one decides to travel then you are required to strictly adhere to the guidelines provided by MOH and upon your return to campus you would be screened and evaluated to maintain the safety in campus. Please be responsible while travelling. Also, please constantly visit <http://www.aimst.edu.my/> for updates regarding our continuous proactive measures to prevent COVID-19 occurrence in campus.

Sincerely

Emeritus Prof Dr. Harcharan Singh
Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive, AIMST University
16 March 2020