

April 3, 2020

Dear Presidents of National University Corporations:

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The Japan Association of National Universities

Response to the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) (Request)

In recent days, many cases of the novel coronavirus infection have continued to be reported in the media. In response to this situation, the national and local governments have requested that all citizens act with self-restraint to help end the spread of the disease.

As President of the Japan Association of National Universities, I publicized two letters respectively, to students on March 5, 2020, and to Presidents of national universities on March 24, 2020, calling for their cooperation to prevent further spread of the virus.

I believe that each university has already made tremendous efforts to implement all possible countermeasures against the current situation, at the beginning of the new academic year, including canceling the entrance ceremony and postponing the start of classes for a substantial period.

As a result of postponing classes, based on the current situation when there seems no indication that the spread of the disease will slow down, students will have about one month to use as they please. During this one-month period, if students travel beyond their area of residence, including returning to their hometown and traveling both inside the country and abroad, or have parties or other gatherings with many other students, not only they will have a higher risk of infection, but they also may trigger the virus spreading across the country.

Based on these circumstances, I would like to strongly request that each university implement additional measures to ensure the students act in ways that will prevent further spread of the disease.