

March 5, 2020

Dear Students:

Kyosuke Nagata, President  
The Japan Association of National Universities

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

In recent months there has been growing concern over the worldwide spread of the novel coronavirus disease. Likewise, in Japan, reports on the danger of the nationwide spread of the virus continue to be published every day.

At the Headquarters for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control, the Japanese government has recognized that this is an extremely critical time for bringing the spread of the virus to an end, and has requested that all elementary, junior high and high schools across the country be temporarily closed as a precaution against the risk of infection.

Such being the case, I strongly urge each and every student to act in such a way as to minimize the risk of being infected. Even more importantly, young people in particular may acquire inapparent infection – that is, infection that does not produce noticeable symptoms, though active. Please be aware that you stand a good chance of becoming a spreader (a source of infection), and passing along the virus to others even without realizing you have the virus.

Travelling beyond your area of residence during this particular period of time, including returning to your home town and travelling abroad, could place you at increased risk of infection, and at the same time lead to more infections spreading across the country. In addition, if you are infected outside your usual area of residence, it would become more difficult to identify its source. Please consider carefully whether such travel is necessary for the safety of others in our communities.