

March 24, 2020

Dear Presidents of National University Corporations:

NAGATA Kyosuke, President
The Japan Association of National Universities

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

Regarding the response to the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) to be implemented by universities and other schools, the Director-General of the Higher Education Bureau of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology issued a notification dated March 24, 2020, titled “Start of Classes in Universities and Other Schools in AY 2020 (Notification).” I believe that all universities have been discussing their responses based on this notification.

In Section (2) of the notification’s Chapter 6 titled “Considerations for Students,” the Director-General has requested that all universities take the following measures: • providing appropriate information and enlightenment regarding students’ private overseas travel, from the perspective of preventing the spread of COVID-19; • urging careful examination of the necessity of traveling abroad at this particular time; and • providing information and making it accessible to students on the two-week health condition management period required after returning from abroad, and appropriate actions to be taken if any changes in one’s physical condition have occurred.

As you already know, the World Health Organization (WHO) has announced that Europe has become the center of the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, the disease has been spreading globally, resulting in a declaration of a state of emergency in specific countries and areas.

Based on the current situation where the disease has spread worldwide, the Japanese government requested that people entering Japan from 40 countries, including East Asia and Europe, Iran, and Egypt (as of March 21, 2020), refrain from going out and using public transportation in Japan for 14 days.

Meanwhile, the Japan Association of National Universities has posted on its website a letter to students dated March 5, 2020, calling for their appropriate response to COVID-19.

I believe that all universities have already started implementing various measures to help stop the spread of the disease. To reduce further spread of the virus, I would like to request a discussion on restricting or discouraging students as well as faculty and administrative staff members from traveling abroad, based on the notification issued by the Director-General of the Higher Education Bureau as mentioned above, and the present disease situation in nations around the world. In addition, I would like to ask all universities to implement further efforts to help reduce the spread of the disease, requesting that persons who have returned from countries and regions issued with a high level of Infectious Disease Warning refrain from going out for 14 days.

I would also like to request that all universities obey the demands or other directions of the local government of the area where they are located.