

April 20, 2020

Dear Students and Faculty and Administrative Staff Members:

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The Japan Association of National Universities

Request for Further Efforts to Reduce the Spread of  
the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has been rapidly spreading worldwide, and the Japan Association of National Universities has taken this situation seriously. Accordingly, I issued letters three times, as the Association's President, to students and Presidents of the member universities, requesting that everyone take actions to help prevent the spread of the disease.

However, we have continued to witness many cases where university students as well as faculty and administrative staff members are being infected with the virus or becoming spreaders of the disease.

Currently, COVID-19 is rapidly spreading around the country, with an increasing number of cases with an unknown source of infection. Meanwhile, there have been some cases where young people become seriously affected by the disease.

Under these circumstances, the Japanese government has expanded the areas under the state of emergency to nationwide, and designated 13 prefectures including the Tokyo metropolis, as "specific warning prefectures" that require further efforts to prevent the spread of the disease. Furthermore, the national and local governments continue to strongly request that every resident make more efforts to avoid the three Cs—closed spaces, crowded spaces, and close-contact settings—and refrain from going out for unnecessary or non-urgent reasons, to prevent further spread of the disease.

Based on these current situations, I would like to firmly request again at this time, with all classes cancelled and before the Golden Week holidays starting later this month, that students as well as faculty and administrative staff members of the member universities thoroughly follow the following principles:

1. Refrain from traveling beyond your area of residence during the holidays, including returning to your hometown, and traveling both inside the country and abroad.
2. Avoid the three Cs (closed spaces, crowded spaces, and close-contact settings) and take actions to minimize the risk of being infected and infecting others.
3. Avoid contact with many and unspecified persons, especially children and the elderly, and refrain from acting in ways that make it difficult to determine the virus's transmission route and thereby prevent further infections.

Lastly, I would also like to ask the Presidents of the national university corporations to ensure that the three principles stated above are widely disseminated among the students as well as faculty and administrative staff members of their respective universities.