

April 2, 2020

To all students

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The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has now been recognized as a “pandemic” by the World Health Organization (WHO), and is having an extremely serious impact worldwide. In Tokyo in particular, if the growth trend of the past several days continues, then by next week the number of infections may reach the level (relative to the general population) at which “lockdown” measures have been implemented in various countries around the world.

The University launched a “Novel Coronavirus Taskforce” (Taskforce Leader: President Takeuchi) on March 30, which is examining university-wide responses such as specific precautionary measures. To prevent the spread of the disease, the University is providing students and faculty with a variety of information through its website, etc. In particular, please be sure to read the content from March 30 and March 31, 2020.

Despite these circumstances, there have been numerous cases over the past several days in which young people and especially students have spread COVID-19 to others without realizing it. Previously, it was thought that even if young people became infected, these cases exhibited no symptoms or only mild symptoms and were rarely fatal. However, there have been many confirmed deaths of young people in Europe, and in countries all over the world including Japan, numerous cases have been discovered in which young people transmitted the infection to their parents or grandparents. Compared to people under fifty, the mortality rate for COVID-19 is estimated to be twice as high among people in their fifties, ten times as high among people in their sixties or seventies, and 28 times as high among people in their eighties or older. Thus, young people living with elderly family members are urged to be particularly careful to avoid transmitting the infection.

Accordingly, I request that you take the precautions outlined below.

- 1) Avoid going to places that simultaneously fulfill the following three conditions, including at night: (1) enclosed spaces with poor ventilation; (2) places where people are densely crowded together; and (3) places where people converse or speak at close range. Namely, this means to avoid nonessential outings, including group activities. (At the very least, do not come to the University until May 6.)
- 2) Do not travel overseas. In addition, do not travel to other regions in Japan. (If you must return to your family home for a compelling reason, take adequate care to prevent

infection while traveling, and avoid contact with anyone but the bare minimum number of family members.)

3) If you have returned to Japan from overseas, remain in a designated location for 14 days and monitor your health. Do not use public transportation in Japan.

These measures may be difficult or constraining for you. However, if we do not stop the spread of this disease, the consequences will be devastating for not only the University but also Japanese society at large.

Once again, I ask you to exercise discretion as sensible adults in these trying times.