

May 27, 2020

To all students and faculty members (third message)
Gradual lifting of campus access restrictions

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Previously on April 27, while the University was restricting campus access and various activities to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19), I issued a second message to students and faculty members. Since then, taking steps such as remaining indoors may have been stressful. Perhaps you took out some of this stress on others, or perhaps you have felt reclusive. Sadly, we may think less clearly and make mistakes at these times. I encourage you to exercise or take other steps to relieve stress and stay mentally and physically fit.

Now that Japan's state of emergency declared on April 7 was lifted as of May 25, the economy will gradually start to reopen, and a roughly two-month transition period (which may be extended, as infections are monitored) has been set from May 25 to July 31. Even in Tokyo, this has paved the way for business closure requests to be relaxed, and the level of closure will gradually ease from 0 to 3.

I know it has been difficult for all of you, not only in classes but also in the experiments, exercises, drills, research, and other studies which are a part of what sets the University apart, and we regret the inconvenience. In view of considerations such as this response by the national and prefectural government, the University will be gradually lifting campus access restrictions from June 1 based on the attached schedule.

However, as a region with the most infections per capita, the Greater Tokyo Area remains at risk of infection. The risk of infection still exists for students and faculty members because many of you commute on public transportation, and you risk spreading infections if you travel to other areas. Although Japan has seen lower rates of new infection, in part this can be attributed to taking steps to reduce interpersonal contact, and looking ahead, we cannot deny the possibility of a resurgence of infection. For this reason, the University is proceeding more cautiously, and we appreciate your understanding.

First, classes will in principle continue to be held online in remote learning until the end of the first semester (that is, the first two quarters of the academic year), as implemented from May 11.

Next, experiments, exercises, drills, and similar studies will gradually start from July 21 during the summer break, with priority given to subjects for licenses that involve national exams. For these studies, the University will basically avoid face-to-face meetings to the extent possible, hold remote learning in advance, and narrow down any essential face-to-face activities, which will be conducted under conditions that prevent infection and maintain hygiene, in open environments and over short periods.

Practical training will in principle be conducted under the same conditions, without overnight lodging.

The University conducts training on training vessels, and careful measures by students and faculty members are required to prevent coronavirus infection. Although you may feel the University should lift restrictions sooner, we ask for your cooperation.

In any case, let us take steps to prevent infection, not only for ourselves but for the sake of grandparents, parents, friends, and other loved ones.

Attachment

Upcoming Schedule (As Planned)

As of May 27, 2020

Present to May 31: No campus access (only main gate open)

Access is restricted to those who are truly required to be on campus, including graduate students graduating in September and those involved in animal or wildlife care, with approval after notification by these individuals.

June 1–June 21: Restricted campus access (only main gate open)

Access is extended to third-year doctoral students, second-year masters students, and fourth-year undergraduate students scheduled to receive onboard training, under the requirement of avoiding the three Cs (closed or crowded places and close-contact settings) in labs and with approval after notification by these individuals.

June 22–July 20: Restricted campus access (only main gate open)

Access is extended to graduate students, students in the Advanced Training Course for Maritime Science and Technology, researchers, and fourth-year undergraduates under the requirement of avoiding the three Cs (closed or crowded places and close-contact settings) in labs and with approval after notification by these individuals.

July 21–August 23: Generally refrain from being on campus (fully open, but outside visitors are in principle prohibited)

Access is extended to graduate students and undergraduates whose studies or research involves experiments, exercises (in principle without overnight lodging), and drills. No notification or approval is required.

Extracurricular activities such as club introductions and meetings can be conducted online.

August 24–September 30: Generally refrain from being on campus

Access is extended in order to take tests or attend classes. No notification or approval is required.

Extracurricular activities are allowed under the requirement of avoiding the three Cs (closed or crowded places and close-contact settings).

October 1: Access restrictions lifted

Access is extended to normal studies according to the academic schedule, under the requirement of strictly avoiding the three Cs at classes and in experiments, exercises, drills, and research.

Access and use of campus facilities by outside visitors resumes, with no notification or approval required.

Notes

1. On campus, strictly avoid the three Cs. Off campus as well, students and faculty members are requested to routinely avoid the three Cs, maintain a physical distance from others, wear a mask, keep your hands clean (as by washing them regularly), and continue to take other basic measures against infection to prevent the spread of the virus.

2. Because access until July 20 is generally prohibited or restricted and requires notification and approval, students in dormitories are also requested to notify academic advisors or others to obtain approval before entering labs.

At present, students have in some cases been meeting at the same lab over extended periods. Even if you have approval to go on campus, at times when most people are staying off campus to contain subsequent spread of infection, we ask that you avoid being on campus unless this is truly required. If you must be on campus, follow the University's unified policy of keeping your time at labs as brief as possible.

3. We intend for this schedule to take effect as of May 27. Dates are subject to change, and in the event of any emergency alerts issued by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, the University will amend the schedule to comply.