To all faculty, staff and students

Gatherings and returning home for the year end/ New Year holidays

NAIST received the following notice concerning the year end/New Year holidays (issued by the Office for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control, Cabinet Secretariat) from the Higher Education Policy Planning Division, Higher Education Bureau of MEXT.

During the year end and New Year holidays, there are various events such yearend and New Year's gatherings and hometown visits where infection could spread rapidly throughout the country, straining the entire medical system in Japan. If you will participate in any events like these, please make sure to continue infection prevention measures and pay attention to the following points.

YOKOYA Naokazu Head, Crisis Measures Headquarters

Notice (Points to note)

(1) End-year and New Year's gatherings

If you will participate in End-year or New Year's gatherings, please try to meet with those people you usually spend time with and do not gather in large numbers. Also, please try to follow the methods below to enjoy gatherings while reducing infection risk.

- · Choose restaurants, etc. that follow guidelines to prevent infection, etc.
- Have those who are sick or who are not feeling healthy not participate
- · Sit maintaining social distance (Space seating diagonally, etc.)
- Wear masks when talking
- · Drink responsibly and do not visit many different restaurants, bars, etc.
- Do not share cups, glasses, silverware, etc.

(2) Shrine/temple visits, New Year's Eve countdown events, etc.

For shrine/temple visits, please avoid periods when crowding is expected. Take the necessary infection prevention measures such as avoiding the 3 Cs when visiting

and also avoid crowds afterwards. For countdown events as well, please take the necessary basic measures to prevent the spread of infection by avoiding the 3 Cs, wearing masks, etc.

(3) Returning home for the holidays

Take the necessary basic measures to prevent the spread of infection when returning home for the holidays and pay particular attention to avoid infection among the elderly, especially avoiding eating in large groups, etc. Also, avoid crowded areas and times during this period.

If the above points may be difficult to follow, please consider refraining from travelling and refrain from travelling if you have a fever or other symptoms.

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