

To all NAIST students, faculty and staff

The new coronavirus (COVID-19) infection is continuing to spread both domestically and internationally. In the Kinki area, the Japanese government has issued an emergency declaration for both Osaka and Hyogo prefectures, and we are approaching a pressing situation where severe cluster infections are feared.

Starting with the reduced scale of the graduation ceremony and the cancellation of the entrance ceremony and other events, due to these unusual events and measures I believe that especially you, our students, must be worried about many things. We will continue to make all relevant information available as soon as possible and hope that you will be calm and act rationally.

Considering the current situation where many NAIST students, faculty and staff come to our campus using public transportation from various regions of the Kinki area, there are fears that the education and research activities here on campus may become a site where a large infection occurs.

As an education institution faced with this situation, the delaying of the starting of classes and the use of the archive system of online classes were decided upon considering the health and welfare of all our students, faculty and staff, and the maintenance and management of a safe and secure environment on campus.

I hope that all of our students, faculty and staff fully understand the severity of the current situation and will take every effort to protect your health, practicing the measures being promoted such as “Avoiding the 3 Cs: closed spaces, crowds and closeness to people.”, “Limiting the time you spend outside to a minimum.”, and “Washing your hands when you return home.” Please always keep in mind that there is a considerable number of people who become infected with the virus but do not develop any symptoms, and that the infection may be spread without showing any symptoms.

For NAIST, even in such severe conditions as these, we are working together so that you can make the most of the education and research activities.

I ask all of you for your understanding and cooperation.

YOKOYA Naokazu

President, Nara Institute of Science and Technology

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