

To all NAIST students, faculty and staff,

With the winter temperatures dropping, NAIST will close for the end of the year and the New Year. For many, this holiday season is a time for going out and getting together, and, with the quick end to the 5th wave of COVID-19 infections, I am sure many of you have made plans for the holidays.

On the other hand, we need to beware of the recent reports of the Omicron variant. While there is currently only a limited amount of information concerning this variant, its rapid spread overseas tells us that it may be even more contagious than previous ones. In fact, even with strict border enforcement measures in place for Japan, there are reports of domestic cases thought to be Omicron variant infection.

At NAIST, we are continually looking at the developing situations and trying to take all the necessary preventative measures, and we would like to ask that, during the holidays, you also take measures to prevent the spread of infection and act accordingly to protect yourself and those close to you. Wearing a mask, disinfecting your hands and other basic preventative measures are now a part of our lives, but we would like to stress the importance of these once again.

It is thought that the continuing emergence of variants is part of the process the virus weakening as it develops. In addition to this, oral medicine to treat those infected is being developed. As the fight between humankind and the virus continues, we shouldn't let down our 'shields', the preventative measures to protect you from infection

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