

To: Students and faculty members
From: Shinji Uemoto, president
Ikko Tooyama, vice-president
International Center (ext. 8741)

Information regarding to the novel coronavirus
[The 37th report: English version updated on May 16th.]

In accordance with the government's basic policy of balancing the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases, COVID-19, with socioeconomic activities, SUMS is trying to balance the prevention of infection spread with various operations and activities such as education, research, and medical treatments.

The government has announced a renewed policy, effective May 8, 2023, to change the status of COVID-19 to Class V Infectious Disease under the Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Medical Care for Patients with Infectious Diseases, in which the basic control measures were lifted and renewed to give the control to individuals and businesses, respecting their independent choices. In response to this policy, we have decided to generally ease the restrictions on student, faculty, and staff duties and activities and related behavioral guidelines from May 8, and the temporary measures on working conditions for staff and faculty were also reduced or abolished.

However, **students, faculty, and staff should remember that the risk of infection is still high, and our school is a medical university with a hospital, which has a high level of responsibility as a medical worker and social function maintainer. We should be united in our efforts to "prevent infection and prevent the spread of infection" by cooperating with each other. Please review all items listed in this report and take thorough measures in accordance with them.**

In addition, the University Hospital has its own measures and precautions. Please confirm e-mails and the homepage of the Infection Control Department for more information about them.

(On-campus only) <http://ulysses.shiga-med.ac.jp/hqsafety/>

[Topics (students and staff)] (Main items revised in the 37th report)

The restrictions are relaxed in general, not just in the items listed below.

[Wearing a mask (students, faculty and staff)]

[Dining in groups (students, faculty and staff)]

→Eased the restrictions

[Important items (students, faculty and staff)]

1) Conception of prohibiting commuting to school or work

→Abolished the measures for taking special leave when prohibited from attending work and for exemption from the obligation to perform duties when unable to attend work, as well as the obligation to report cases of fever (37.5°C or higher) and the concept of “close contact person”. We also relaxed the period of prohibition of commuting, and changed the response flow regarding reporting, including when a person living with becomes positive, etc.

[For student, faculty and staff]

1) Overseas travel, domestic business trips, and private trips during holidays

→Eased restrictions on overseas travel

3) Contact with patients during research

→Abolished limiting condition restrictions

[For students]

5) Extracurricular activities

→Eased restrictions. Added the conditions for returning to activities after becoming positive.

[For faculty and staff]

1) Work from home

→Abolished the system designed for countermeasure for COVID-19, in principle

2) Risk allowance

→Abolished the system of providing risk allowance to medical personnel working for COVID-19

* Please refer to each items below for details.

[Behavioral guidelines (students, faculty and staff)]

- In places where contact with a large number of unknown people is likely or where 3C cannot be maintained, especially in areas where a large number of infected persons have been identified, caution should be exercised to prevent the carrying of infection into our facilities.
- Irrespective of personal affairs, student life affairs, or business affairs, everyday activities should be carried out in consideration of measures to prevent the spread of infection.

[Vaccination (students, faculty and staff)]

- We recommend all students, faculty and staff to get vaccinated.
- Those students, faculty or staff who choose not to be vaccinated will have no disadvantages.
- However, please be aware that outside medical institutions may have different vaccination requirements.

[Wearing a mask (students, faculty and staff)] (Updated on May 8)

- All students and staff are strongly recommended to wear a mask on campus and in the University Hospital, whether conversing or not. (Except when outside and no one is around, or when training/exercising.)
- Wearing surgical mask is recommended instead of a cloth mask or urethane mask from the viewpoint of preventing droplet transmission.
- However, if it is difficult to wear a surgical mask due to various circumstances (physical circumstances such as rough skin, financial circumstances, etc.), wearing other types of masks is permitted.

[Dining in groups (students, faculty and staff)] (Updated on May 8)

- While eating and drinking (or removing masks), both students and staff should refrain from conversation as much as possible, whether on or off campus.
- When holding or participating in events that involve food and drink, measures to prevent the spread of infection should be considered.

[Important items (students, faculty and staff)]

1. Conception of prohibiting commuting to school or work (Updated on May 8)

* From April 1, 2023, **students, faculty, and staff will no longer be required to report their body temperature daily (including weekends and holidays) using the temperature check application**, but are encouraged to continue to monitor their health condition by taking their temperature daily. However, the application for undergraduate students will continue to be provided as a self-check tool, so please use it as appropriate. (*Some classes may require you to use it at the direction of the faculty member in charge.)

("Shiga University of Medical Science Student Body Temperature Check App")

<https://fevercheck.shiga-med.ac.jp/student/>

* The special measures for paid leave applied when faculty and staff are prohibited from going to work and when a faculty member is unable to attend work due to the temporary closure of his/her child's elementary school as a result of measures taken to prevent the spread of infection have been abolished on May 7th, 2023.

* Undergraduate students who work in laboratories (university only, excluding University Hospitals) are considered as faculty members, so please follow the items below regarding attending work.

1. Cases of fever of 37.5°C or higher (students, faculty and staff) (Updated on May 8)

1) If you have a fever of 37.5°C or higher, commuting to school or work is prohibited for that day, so you should manage your physical condition by measuring your body temperature twice a day.

2) Commuting to school or work is allowed as long as there is no fever for the day.

2. Case of tested positive (students, faculty and staff) (Updated on May 8)

1) When you are tested positive, undergraduate students should contact the Health Administration Center (stnetsu@belle.shiga-med.ac.jp), staff members need to send an e-mails to the head of the department/division, graduate students should send it to the supervisor, immediately, including the followings.

- (Tested by yourself) attach a photo of the test kit indicating positive (*write name and affiliation on the kit)


- (Tested at a clinic) provide information that you will send the receipt or medical certificate at a later date.


2) The head/supervisor/Center staff who received the report as stated in 1) need to instruct the one not to commute to school and work, and immediately report the following information to the dedicated email address. corona@belle.shiga-med.ac.jp

-Name, Department, Year or Affiliation, Position, etc.

-Last day to commute/attend school

3) Upon receiving the report in 2), the staff of the Health Administration Center or Infection Control Department will promptly judge and give instructions on commuting to school and work prohibition depending on the contact situation, so please follow them.

 "Regarding the restriction of commuting for those who are positive" (PDF Updated)
<http://www.shiga-med.ac.jp/sites/default/files/2023-05/yosei-shugyou-shugaku-seigen-20230501.pdf> (Only in Japanese)

 "Flowchart for when tested positive" (Newly added)
<https://www.shiga-med.ac.jp/sites/default/files/2023-05/yosei-flowchart-20230501.pdf>
(Only in Japanese)

3. If a person living with tests positive (students, faculty, and staff) (Updated on May 8)

1) Although not subject to the prohibition of commuting to and from school and work, you must take thorough measures to prevent the spread of infection, such as wearing a mask and eating away from others for five days from the day the person is found to be positive, regardless of whether indoors or outdoors.


2) **However, if you are scheduled to work or study at the hospital during the period of 1) above, you may work or study at the hospital only after taking test and confirmed negative.**

3) **If 2) applies, undergraduate students should contact the Health Administration Center (stnetsu@belle.shiga-med.ac.jp), staff members are required to contact the head of the department/division, graduate students are to the supervisor, respectively, immediately.**

4) Upon receiving a report as described in 3) above, the Health Administration Center, supervisor, or department head should immediately report the following information to the dedicated e-mail address: corona@belle.shiga-med.ac.jp

- Name, Department, Year, or Affiliation, Position, etc.

- The person living with is tested positive
 - The date scheduled to study or work at the University Hospital within 5 days from the date of finding out that the person living with is positive.
- 5) Upon receiving the report of 4) above, the Health Administration Center or the Infection Control Department will judge the situation and give instructions regarding the antigen test, and the department head/supervisor and the person must follow the instructions.

 "Flowchart for when a person living with is tested positive" (Newly added)
<https://www.shiga-med.ac.jp/sites/default/files/2023-05/dokyo-yosei-flowchart-20230501.pdf> (Only in Japanese)

2. Disinfection on campus

- 1) In "Hygiene management manual for new coronavirus infectious diseases at school" (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology), it is recommended to disinfect the parts that you often touch (doorknobs, handrails, switches, etc.) at least once a day. Therefore, in laboratories, offices, each faculty member who uses it should disinfect the relevant area by such as wiping with a paper towel. (* Cleaning staff disinfect common areas such as elevator buttons, toilets, etc.)
- 2) In the buildings of the university campus, there is a hand sanitizer near the entrance (1st floor). Please use it as appropriate for the prevention measures. (Personnel Division: 077-548-2014)

MEXT: "Hygiene management manual for novel coronavirus infectious diseases at school"

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/coronavirus/mext_00029.html

[For students, faculty and staff]

1. Overseas and domestic travel, including private trips during holidays

(Updated on May 8)


- 1) Regarding **official overseas travel (students' regular and semi-regular course activities, faculty and staff's official duties, including participation in academic conferences and**

training programs,) students and faculty/staff should decide whether or not to undertake, cancel, postpone, continue or return home in accordance with the "Overseas Risk Information Correspondence Criteria" established by the University based on the "Risk Information" and "Infectious Disease Risk Information" posted on the MOFA's "Overseas Safety Information" website.

2) Regarding private overseas travel, faculty and staff should carefully consider whether or not it is appropriate based on the "Overseas Risk Information Correspondence Criteria" established by the University.

3) For domestic trips, including business trips, private trips such as returning home, both students and faculty/staff should decide whether or not it is appropriate, taking into consideration the situation of the spread of infectious diseases.

4) Thorough measures to prevent coronavirus infection should be taken when implementing overseas and domestic travels.

 "Overseas Risk Information Correspondence Criteria"

<https://www.shiga-med.ac.jp/sites/default/files/2023-03/kaigai-toko-seigen-kijun-20230328.pdf> (Only in Japanese)

* Before and after traveling overseas, please check the government's prevention measures and follow them. The details of the measures can be found on the website of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000121431_00209.html

* When traveling overseas, please submit relating documents such as "Notice of Overseas Travel" to Management Office of Medical Research (faculty/staff) and to Student Division (students).

Management Office of Medical Research:

077-548-2896, risk@belle.shiga-med.ac.jp

Student Support Section, Student Division:

077-548-2072, hqshogak@belle.shiga-med.ac.jp

2. Research activities (Updated on May 8)


1) Research activities should be carried out after thorough measures and consideration for preventing the spread of infection.

3. Contact with patients during research (Updated on May 8)

1) As long as measures are taken to prevent the spread of infection, research involving patient contact is permitted.

* If you are a graduate student with a limited research period, please consult with your supervisor about changing your research topic, etc.

* Please follow the “guidelines for entering the operating room”, when entering the operating room. (PDF Updated)

 <https://www.shiga-med.ac.jp/sites/default/files/2023-05/shujutubu-shishin-20230508.pdf> (Only in Japanese)

4. Implementation of workshops and lectures (Updated on May 8)

1) The event should be held after taking measures to prevent the spread of infection, and the maximum number of participants will be set in accordance with the guidelines of Shiga Prefecture.

(Guidelines of Shiga Prefecture)

<https://www.pref.shiga.lg.jp/ippan/bousai/sougo/313183.html>

5. Use of sports facilities on campus

1) The use of the all sports facilities on campus is permitted for both students and staff under the condition of following the guidelines of sports organizations. Consideration should be given to preventing the spread of infection.

(Japan Sports Agency: Guidelines for Prevention of the Spread of New Coronavirus in Sports)

https://www.mext.go.jp/sports/b_menu/sports/mcatetop01/list/detail/jsa_00021.html

[For students]

<Contact address for consultation>

Lectures / Practices / Exams

Student Division (undergraduate) 077-548-2068 hqgaku@belle.shiga-med.ac.jp

Student Division (graduate) 077-548-2095 hqgs@belle.shiga-med.ac.jp

Study support / general student life

Student Division (student support) 077-548-2072 hqshogak@belle.shiga-med.ac.jp

Health

Health Administration Center 077-548-2087 hqheadm@belle.shiga-med.ac.jp

English support

International Center 077-548-3538 hqkouryu@belle.shiga-med.ac.jp

1. Restrictions for undergraduate students from entering the University Hospital


(Updated on May 8)

1) Undergraduate students are allowed to enter the University Hospitals after consideration given to preventing the spread of infection. In principle, there are no restrictions. However, during clinical/on-site clinical training, the hospital may, at the discretion of each department or division, restrict the training area (the Hospital will decide whether or not to allow students to enter the building where multiple departments are housing.) In case that a cluster or other outbreak of infection occurs among undergraduates, all undergraduate students may be prohibited from entering the University Hospitals at the discretion of the director of the Hospital.

2) Infection spread prevention measures should be implemented when undergraduate students enter the University. However, if a cluster or other outbreak occurs among undergraduates, entry to the University may be prohibited at the discretion of the President.

* [Relating to 1] **If you have a plan to study or work at the University Hospital within 5 days after a person living with becomes positive, please refer to the [Important items (students, faculty and staff)] 1. 3.**

* [Relating to 1] Please follow the “Guidelines for entering the operating room” when you enter the operating room. (PDR Updated)

 <https://www.shiga-med.ac.jp/sites/default/files/2023-05/shujutubu-shishin-20230508.pdf> (Only in Japanese)

2. Lectures (including exams) (Updated on May 8)

1) Lectures (including exams) are conducted face-to-face format after consideration given to preventing the spread of infection.

* To students who have difficulty commuting to school, online lectures and other

appropriate support will be provided.

- * Depending on the infection spreading situation, remote format may be used at the discretion of the Director of Academic Affairs.

3. Exercises/Practical trainings (including exams) (Updated on May 8)

1) Exercises and practical trainings (including exams) are conducted face-to-face format after consideration given to preventing the spread of infection.

- * To students who have difficulty commuting to school, online lectures and other appropriate support will be provided.
- * Depending on the infection spreading situation, remote format may be used at the discretion of the Director of Academic Affairs.

4. Clinical/On-site clinical training (Updated on May 8)

1) In the University Hospitals (including National Hospital Organization Higashi-ohmi General Medical Center, JCHO Shiga Hospital and Kohka Public Hospital), the **training format will be participatory type** after consideration given to preventing the spread of infection.

2) For restrictions on entering to the University Hospitals, please refer to the item, [For students] "1. Restrictions for undergraduate students from entering the University Hospital."

3) Clinical/On-site clinical training at cooperating medical institutions outside the university **will be conducted in a face-to-face format as much as possible** depending on the situation of the cooperating institutions.

- * Regardless of 1), **the clinical training may be changed to tour type only, cancelled or postponed at the discretion of the Director of Academic Affairs** depending on the situation of the spread of infection, etc.

*Regardless of 3), depending on the situation of the spread of infection, off-campus clinical/on-site clinical training may be changed to a remote format or small group training using simulators (on campus), or may be cancelled or postponed. In case of cancellation or postponement, alternative measures will be implemented.

5. Extracurricular activities (Updated on May 8)

1) Following the guidelines of each sport organization or Japan Sports Agency, please

consider to prevent the spread of infection when conducting extracurricular activities. The permission of counselor or supervisor in each club is needed. More detailed information will be given from Student Division.

2) However, considering the current situation, **please perform the activities within “UNIVAS guidelines (March 13, 2023 edition)” phase 2-5 shown in "Table 2. Example of gradual resumption plan of sports activities"**. Student Division informs the details.

3) Training camps, expeditions, tournament/match participation, concerts, live performances will be handled as follows. Student Division will inform the details.

(1) For the activities in Phase 5 of the activity level defined by the University, notification system is applied.

(2) For the activities in Phase 2-4 of the activity level defined by the University, permit system is applied, with consideration to the situation of infection spread.

4) Regardless of 1)-3), there are no particular restrictions on remote format activities.

★ [Relating to 2] The restrictions will **be relaxed or tightened within the range from Phase 2 (small group practice) to Phase 5 (team practice including full contact)** for both indoors and outdoors, on and off campus only after taking into consideration the situation of the spread of infection. Details will be notified by the Student Division.

★ If you test positive and are banned from commuting (*refer to 2. Case of tested positive (students, faculty and staff)) in [Important Items (students, faculty, and staff)] 1., you **may not participate in extracurricular until after 10 days from the onset of symptoms, even if you have returned to class.**

(Japan Sports Agency)

https://www.mext.go.jp/sports/b_menu/sports/mcatetop01/list/detail/jsa_00021.html

(UNIVAS)

<https://www.univas.jp/project/safety/guideline/>

* **When eating and drinking (unmasked), whether on or off campus, please refrain from conversation as much as possible.** Also, if you are **hosting or attending events where food and drink are involved, please take thorough measures to prevent the spread of infection.**

6. Job hunting activities for undergraduate students (Updated on May 8)

1) There are no particular restrictions on job hunting activities (participating in

employment information sessions, hospital tours, employment examinations/interviews, procedures after employment appointments, etc.), under the condition that consideration is given to the prevention of the spread of infection.

[For faculty and staff]

1. Work from home (Updated on May 8)

* The measures stipulated in the "Guidelines for Telecommuting to prevent the spread of the New Coronavirus (President's Decision of April 16, 2020)," which came into effect on May 1, 2020, has abolished on May 7, 2023, in principle. However, the measures will be continued until September 30, 2023, on an exceptional basis only for those departments deemed particularly necessary by the University.

2. Risk allowance (Updated on May 8)

* The measures stipulated in the "Provision of Risk Allowance for Medical Personnel Involved in the Novel Coronavirus (temporary arrangement: President's Decision of April 30, 2020)," which was retroactively enacted on April 20, 2020, has abolished on May 7, 2023.

3. Subsidiary business

1) Side jobs outside of SUMS are allowed with no restrictions under the condition that consideration is given to the prevention of the spread of infection, both to the destination and to the University upon return. (Personnel Division: 077-548-2014)

4. Acceptance of researchers from overseas

1) If any department plans to host researchers from overseas, please handle it with consideration for preventing the spread of infection.

2) Please refer to the following website for information on the current immigration control measures for incoming researchers entering Japan.

(Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000121431_00209.html

5. Responding to media coverage (Updated on May 8)

1) When responding to media coverage, please handle it with consideration for preventing the spread of infection. (General Affairs & Planning Division: 077-548-2012).

[Others]

1. Acceptance of hospital training, tours, etc. (Updated on May 8)

1. Outside medical students (Updated on May 8)

1) Acceptance of practical training and tours at the University Hospitals is permitted on the condition that consideration is given to preventing the spread of infection. It should be within the limits that do not exceed the restrictions in place at the time of acceptance for the conduct of clinical/on-site clinical training for undergraduate students of this University.

* For the restrictions on clinical/on-site clinical training for undergraduate students of this University, please refer to the item [For students] "1. Restrictions for undergraduate students from entering the University Hospital" and "4. Clinical/On-site clinical training."

* During training, you should monitor your own body temperature. However, if you develop a fever (37.5°C or higher) or if there is a cluster or other infectious outbreak at the University, the clinical/on-site clinical training will be canceled. In this case, please report immediately to your host department/section and follow their instructions.

* For measures to be taken if you test positive for new coronavirus infection or if a person living with you tests positive, please refer to "1. Conception of prohibiting commuting to school or work" in [Important Items (students, faculty, and staff)].

2. Outside doctors, dentists, nurses, medical staff

1) Acceptance of practical training and tours at the University Hospitals is permitted with the condition of consideration is given to the prevention of the spread of infection.

* However, if you have a fever (37.5°C or higher) or if a cluster or other outbreak of infection occurs at outside institutions, your practical training or visit should be

cancelled. In such cases, please report promptly to your host department or division and follow their instructions.

* For measures to be taken if you test positive for new coronavirus infection or if a person living with you tests positive, please refer to "1. Conception of prohibiting commuting to school or work" in [Important Items (students, faculty, and staff)].

3. [For all] Outside medical students and doctors, dentists, nurses, medical staff

1) As a general rule, acceptance of practical training that can be conducted using alternative means of non-contact with patients and face-to-face with a small number of people, such as use of a simulator, is permitted as long as it is on the university campus (not in the University Hospital.)

[Related Information Websites]

(* Please confirm as appropriate.)

Cabinet Secretariat (Correspondence of new coronavirus infectious disease)

<https://corona.go.jp/>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Overseas Safety Website

<http://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp> (PC version, smartphone version)

<http://m.anzen.mofa.go.jp/mbtop.asp> (mobile version)

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Correspondence to measures against infectious diseases related to the new coronavirus)

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/coronavirus/index.html

Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (New coronavirus infection)

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000164708_00001.html

Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (To prevent new coronavirus)

<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/000628620.pdf>

Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (Contact for information and consultation on COVID-19)

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryuu/covid19-kikokuyasessyokusya.html

Shiga prefecture homepage
<https://www.pref.shiga.lg.jp/>

Note: In the event of discrepancy between the English version and the Japanese version of the terms, the Japanese-language version shall prevail. If you have any questions, please contact International Center Tel: 077-548-3538/ hqkouryu@belle.shiga-med.ac.jp