

Revision of Kyoto University's Novel Coronavirus Prevention Measures

On Jan. 27, 2023, the government's Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters (hereinafter referred to as "NCRH") announced that as of May 8, the novel coronavirus will no longer be classified as "pandemic influenza (novel influenza or re-emerging influenza)" under the Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases, and will be categorized as a Class 5 infectious disease. On Feb. 10, the recommendations regarding the wearing of masks to prevent the spread of the virus were revised. Based on those developments, Kyoto University's novel coronavirus prevention measures shall be revised as detailed below.

1. Regarding the level of activity restrictions (as specified in the university's "Guidelines for the Restrictions of Activities to Prevent the Spread of the Novel Coronavirus")

(1) From March 13 to May 7, 2023:

The level of activity restrictions for each category in the "Guidelines for the Restrictions of Activities to Prevent the Spread of the Novel Coronavirus" (hereafter "the Guidelines") will remain at **Level 1** until March 12, and will then be reduced to **Level 1-** from March 13 to May 7.

(2) From May 8, 2023 onwards:

From May 8, when the novel coronavirus is classified as a Class 5 infectious disease, the response under the guidelines will be reduced to **Level 0**. Please note, however, that stricter virus prevention measures may be imposed again, if there is a significant increase in the number of infections.

Guidelines for the Restriction of Activities to Prevent the Spread of the Novel Coronavirus:

<https://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/sites/default/files/inline-files/guideline-en-v4-230308-023b50e0004d1203e8e44d866e131d67.pdf>

2. Regarding the wearing of masks

(1) Until March 31, 2023:

The requirements for the wearing of masks at the university will continue in accordance with the notice "Regarding the Wearing of Masks to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19" (issued by the Kyoto University Disaster Response Task Force on June 1, 2022). However, the wearing of masks at the 2023 graduation and conferment ceremonies on March 24 will be at each individual's discretion.

Regarding the Wearing of Masks to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 (issued by the Kyoto University Disaster Response Task Force on June 1, 2022).

<https://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/sites/default/files/inline-files/220601-wearingofmasks-en-24e57ada5007bd528424c8b6337fb72e.pdf>

(2) From April 1, 2023 onwards:

- The decision regarding whether or not to wear a mask shall be at the discretion of each individual, and each

individual's decision shall be respected.

- When making a decision regarding the wearing of masks, please refer to the “Revised Recommendation for the Wearing of Masks, Etc.,” issued by the NCRH on Feb. 10, particularly the sections “Situations in Which Masks are Effective,” “If You Have Symptoms,” etc. (please note that this document is only available in Japanese).
- The recommendations in “Regarding the Wearing of Masks to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19” (issued by the Kyoto University Disaster Response Task Force on June 1, 2022) shall be abolished.

Revised Recommendation for the Wearing of Masks, Etc. (in Japanese)

https://corona.go.jp/news/news_20230210_01.html

3. Procedures to be followed if a student, faculty member, or staff member is confirmed as infected with the novel coronavirus

(1) Until May 7, 2023:

Cases in which students, faculty, or staff, etc., are confirmed to be infected with the novel coronavirus shall be handled in accordance with “Procedures to be Followed if a Student, Faculty Member, or Staff Member is Confirmed as Infected with the Novel Coronavirus” (Ver. 11, issued Oct. 1, 2022).

Procedures to be Followed if a Student, Faculty Member, or Staff Member is Confirmed as Infected with the Novel Coronavirus (Ver. 11, issued Oct. 1, 2022)

<https://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/sites/default/files/inline-files/20221001-procedures-ver11-874c7cf26f0add114e9ee785c4c2a2cc.pdf>

(2) From May 8, 2023 onwards:

- In the event that a student, faculty member, or staff member is confirmed to be infected with the novel coronavirus, please follow the instructions of the relevant medical institutions, etc.
- The requirements stipulated in “Procedures to be Followed if a Student, Faculty Member, or Staff Member is Confirmed as Infected with the Novel Coronavirus (Ver. 11, issued Oct. 1, 2022)” shall be abolished.

4. Regarding social gatherings, etc., that involve eating and drinking

From March 13, when the activity restriction level in accordance with the guidelines is set at 1-, no restrictions will be imposed on holding social gatherings and other events that involve eating and drinking. However, persons participating in such events should be aware that the risk of infection is comparatively higher in such situations. In addition, persons who feel unwell (for example, if they have a fever or sore throat) are requested to refrain from attending such events.

5. Other matters

- Even after the revision of the recommendations regarding the wearing of masks comes into effect on April 1, it is still vital to observe the basic virus prevention measures stipulated in the government's “Basic Policies for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control” (issued by the NCRH on Nov. 19, 2021). Accordingly, all students,

faculty, and staff are requested to continue to avoid the “Three Cs,” maintain a safe social distance, wash hands and practice good hand hygiene, ensure rooms are well ventilated, etc.

- From May 8, the university’s Disaster Response Task Force will be abolished in line with the abolition of the government’s Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters and prefectural task forces.
- Future responses to novel coronavirus infections by healthcare workers at the university shall be separately determined by each relevant department.

Nagahiro Minato

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Disaster Response Task Force

**Guidelines for the Restriction of Activities to Prevent the Spread of the Novel Coronavirus:
Level 1 (-)**

Category 1: Classes (lectures, training, experiments, practical work) and extracurricular activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Classes, etc. Implement normal operations, while exercising caution to prevent the spread of infection. The policy regarding the holding of classes will be determined separately by the executive vice-president for education. <input type="radio"/> Extracurricular Activities Carry out extracurricular activities, while exercising caution to prevent the spread of infection.
Category 2: Internal meetings and staff attendance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Internal Meetings Hold face-to-face meetings, while exercising caution to prevent the spread of infection. <input type="radio"/> Staff Attendance Implement normal operations while exercising caution to prevent the spread of infection. Those who have difficulty working face-to-face, even when the feasible infection control measures are taken shall work from home.
Category 3: Research activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Continue research activities as usual, while taking precautions to prevent the spread of infection.

Related link:

[Guidelines for the Restriction of Activities to Prevent the Spread of the Novel Coronavirus \(Ver.4\)](#)

**Guidelines for the Restriction of Activities to Prevent the Spread of the Novel Coronavirus:
Level 0**

Category 1: Classes (lectures, training, experiments, practical work) and extracurricular activities
<p><input type="radio"/> Classes, etc. Normal operations</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Extracurricular Activities Normal operations</p>
Category 2: Internal meetings and staff attendance
<p><input type="radio"/> Internal Meetings Face-to-face meetings can be held as usual.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Staff Attendance Normal operations</p>
Category 3: Research activities
<p><input type="radio"/> Normal operations</p>

Related link:

[Guidelines for the Restriction of Activities to Prevent the Spread of the Novel Coronavirus \(Ver.4\)](#)