ATTN: All students

Center Director, University Educational Affairs Center

Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (OUAVM) will start classes on May 11 (Monday) in line with its policy and course of action during the COVID-19 pandemic. All students should familiarize themselves with the specific instructions below.

1. Remote provision of classes

- In line with OUAVM's ongoing restriction of campus access, most classes will be provided via the Zoom online platform. However, some courses will continue via other remote videoconferencing channels as outlined in the first class. Information on how to connect to Zoom will be provided separately.

- OUAVM will provide the first class of all courses on Zoom. All students are advised to attend to learn how remote classes will be provided and how the learning platform should be utilized.

- Students unable to participate remotely in classes will take their classes in designated classrooms on campus. They are advised to bring their own PC, tablet or smartphone. To connect their device to the university LAN, they must register their device's Mac address in advance with the Information Processing Center via its website (http://univ.obihiro.ac.jp/~ipcenter/). Students unable to bring a PC or other device will be asked to take classes in a specified room equipped with PCs.

- Personal Zoom accounts are not necessary for class taking part in a class, as OUAVM will set an ID and password for each classroom.

- Students should ensure that they have an adequate internet connection for Zoom classes. PCs and tablets are preferable to smartphones, and bandwidth/speed should be sufficient for problem-free video transmission.

- Each lecture will involve a data usage of around 500 MB. Accordingly, a monthly capacity of at least 50 GB will be needed for a communication speed of 200 kbps or more.

- Some Japanese carriers offer free or discount up to 50 GB per month for users up to 25 years of age (tethering included). Students with potentially insufficient capacity should contact their cell phone provider to explore such options for remote classes.

- Lessons that cannot be conducted remotely (e.g., those involving experiments, practical training, hands-on sessions and seminars) will be taught in person with focus on avoiding the three Cs (closed spaces, crowded places and close-contact settings). Follow the instructions given in class.

2. Recording of all remote classes for use in supplementary lessons

- Recordings will be provided for students unable to take streamed classes live.

- Students unable to attend remote classes due to internet access limitations will be able to view class videos as supplementary lessons by accessing the OUAVM online resource from a PC connected to the university LAN. Videos are scheduled to be viewable from the afternoon of the day after the class.

- OUAVM also plans to implement a video-on-demand service accessible on and off campus. For the time being, class videos will be placed online for on-campus viewing only.

- OUAVM is considering the production of class DVDs (MPEG-4 format) that will be sent to students unable to attend classes either remotely or in person due to internet issues or other factors. Such students should contact the Admissions and Educational Affairs Section (e-mail: gakumu@obihiro.ac.jp, tel. 0155-49-5293). The DVDs will play on most PCs with an internal or external DVD drive, but may not work on some home DVD players.

- Videos of some classes may not be available. In such cases, follow the instructions of the instructor.

3. Considerations for students without internet access/unable to attend in-person classes

- OUAVM will ensure that students unable to take classes remotely or in person will suffer no disadvantage in earning credits. Such students should contact the Admissions and Educational Affairs Section (e-mail: gakumu@obihiro.ac.jp, tel. 0155-49-5293).

- There may be a period of several days before supplementary class videos are available online and a week or more for class DVD viewing. Deadlines for assignment submission will be extended accordingly.

- OUAVM will ensure that students unable to view class videos will not be disadvantaged in earning credits. Specific methods of such arrangements will vary by course; follow the instructions of the instructor. At a minimum, students are advised to arrange access to course materials via the web portal or the course in Moodle if the instructor has created one.

- Students should check the web portal at least once a day as it is the main channel for the dissemination information. If your course instructor uses Moodle you should check the course page in Moodle and check for any messages in the Moodle system.

- The potential duration of the global COVID-19 pandemic remains unclear. As travel restrictions and the impracticality of in-person classes may continue for some time, students should establish/maintain an appropriate online environment and be proactive in communicating with your instructors and the appropriate administrative offices of the university.