

September 18, 2020

ATTN: Students, faculty and staff

Director, Crisis Management Office

OUAVM Measures to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 on and after October 1, 2020

Effective from October 1, 2020, Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (OUAVM) will update its COVID-19 prevention measures as follows. For matters that are not covered in this notice, please refer to previous notices. Students, faculty and staff should stay alert to communications from the university, which will be provided via the OUAVM website, online portal and other channels. Your continued understanding and cooperation is highly appreciated.

[Students]

1. Classes

In principle, classes in the second semester, which will begin on October 1, will be held in the same way as in the first semester: lectures will be offered remotely and some courses involving experiments or practical training will include in-person classes. However, some lecture courses offered in the first year of the Schools of Agriculture and Animal Science and the Two-Year Course in Animal Husbandry may be provided face-to-face. Off-campus practical and other training sessions and classes that will host anyone from outside OUAVM must be applied for and approved in advance. Details will be communicated as soon as they are finalized via the OUAVM online portal and other channels.

2. Research activities by students

Graduate students engaging in research activities and undergraduates working on their graduation work are asked to follow their supervisor's guidance and practice every precaution against infection. For key points to note in research activities, [refer to the Guideline for Engaging in Research Activities While Preventing the Spread of Infections](#) published on May 14, 2020 by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

3. Hometown visits and other travel

Students who will travel off campus for purposes such as attending practical training or other sessions and job searches are asked to follow their instructor's and supervisor's guidance and practice every precaution against infection. For job searches, please refer

to the [Notice of COVID-19 Prevention During Job Searches](#).

With regard to domestic leisure trips, students are asked to refrain from nonessential outings and decide whether they should proceed with such trips with extreme caution, for example, by ascertaining the infection status at the destination.

If they need to take a trip, they should take thorough steps to prevent infection, such as wearing a mask when taking mass transit. While we do not ask them to self-quarantine after returning home, they are asked to keep tabs on their health by checking their temperature and watching for other symptoms for two weeks. Anyone experiencing flu-like symptoms or signs of ill health should contact the OUAVM Health Care Administration Center (Email: hokekan@obihiro.ac.jp; tel.: 0155-49-5315).

OUAVM continues to prohibit its students from traveling overseas because the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has continued to advise citizens to avoid nonessential travel for the entire world (Level 2).

4. Student participation in education and career support programs

Effective from October 1, students are allowed to participate in OUAVM-hosted programs, including regional collaboration programs and career support programs, based on compliance with OUAVM's infection control measures.

Details will be communicated via the OUAVM website, online portal and other channels.

5. Entry to the OUAVM campus

OUAVM continues to ask all students, except the following, to refrain from entering the campus. Those who enter the campus must wear masks, practice cough and sneeze etiquette, sanitize their hands and avoid the "three Cs": confined spaces, crowded places and close contact settings. The exceptions are:

- (1) Students who take remote classes on campus due to internet access limitations at home
- (2) Students who view class videos as supplementary lessons (only those permitted by the course instructors)
- (3) Students who attend in-class practical training or other sessions
- (4) Graduate students who engage in research
- (5) Undergraduates who engage in their graduation work
- (6) Students who need to enter the campus to submit applications or other procedures, to receive consultations, and to care for animals
- (7) Students who use the University Library
- (8) Students who use the cafeteria or the store for a short period of time
- (9) Students permitted to engage in extracurricular activities
- (10) Students who participate in education and career support programs

Note: Students in (4) and (5) above must follow their supervisor's guidance and observe the following three instructions.

- Follow OUAVM's infection control measures and try to prevent the spread of infections.
- Minimize hours of research work at laboratories as much as possible.
- Work at home if you can.

6. Extracurricular activities

Extracurricular activities are permitted on the condition that students submit an activity plan based on OUAVM's infection control measures and guidelines for the resumption of club activities.

7. Use of OUAVM's gymnasium, locker rooms, training rooms and outdoor sports facilities

The use of these facilities is permitted based on compliance with sanitary control and other rules to be formulated. Details will be provided separately.

[Faculty and staff]

1. Work and research activities of faculty and staff

Faculty and staff are advised to follow OUAVM's infection control measures when engaging in work and research activities. If they engage with students on campus, they are also advised to inform the students of those measures.

Those who engage in research are also asked to [refer to the Guideline for Engaging in Research Activities While Preventing the Spread of Infections](#) published on May 14, 2020 by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

Also, faculty and staff are advised to work remotely if possible. For research activities, faculty are asked to [refer to the Guideline for Engaging in Research Activities While Preventing the Spread of Infections](#) published by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

2. Meetings

Please continue to refer to the document [“Points to note in holding meetings and other gatherings.”](#)

3. OUAVM-hosted events

OUAVM is considering holding OUAVM-hosted events, such as the matriculation ceremony, diploma presentation ceremony, regional collaboration programs and career support programs, with sufficient infection control measures being taken. Details about

such events will be provided separately.

4. Domestic and international business and leisure trips

OUAVM asks faculty and staff to continue to refrain from domestic business travel, in principle. However, if they consider such trips necessary after carefully examining alternatives such as teleconferencing, they should state the reason for the trip in the “Remarks” section of the travel order/notification and apply via the travel expense processing system. Please note that OUAVM may choose not to approve the trips in consideration of the state of infections in Japan and other circumstances.

With regard to domestic leisure trips, we ask faculty and staff to refrain from nonessential outings and to decide whether to proceed with such trips with extreme caution, for example, by ascertaining the infection status at the destination.

If they need to take a business or leisure trip, they should take thorough steps to prevent infection, such as wearing a mask when taking mass transit. While we do not ask them to self-quarantine after returning home, they are asked to keep tabs on their health by checking their temperature and watching for other symptoms for two weeks. Anyone experiencing flu-like symptoms or signs of ill health should contact the OUAVM Health Care Administration Center (Email: hokekan@obihiro.ac.jp; tel.: 0155-49-5315).

OUAVM will continue to prohibit its faculty and staff from traveling abroad or inviting/hosting overseas researchers and other visitors, because the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has continued to advise citizens to avoid nonessential travel for the entire world (Level 2).

5. Use of OUAVM’s gymnasium, locker rooms, training rooms and outdoor sports facilities

The use of these facilities is permitted based on compliance with sanitary control and other rules to be formulated in line with the rules for students. Details will be provided separately.