

Health and Safety Measures for Mixed-Mode Classes

Wednesday, Sep 23, 2020, 12:38PM

Dear Members of the University,

With the improving pandemic situation in Hong Kong, the University has decided that some classes will be switched to mixed-mode delivery starting from 28th September 2020. Mixed-mode is an auxiliary mode of delivery supplementing the online mode. Students, regardless of local or non-local, are not required to attend classes in person to complete the class and examination requirements; and are advised not to make travel plans just because of the mixed-mode teaching arrangements.

Appropriate social distancing and enhanced hygiene measures will be adopted for mixed-mode delivery, as follows:

Personal Hygiene and Health Monitoring

- Temperature screening will be required at campus entrances, student halls, library and catering outlets.
- All University members are encouraged to monitor their temperature daily. When you use the Remote Fever Self-checking Stations, you may take a photo of the display with the date and green box as a proof of normal temperature for the day.
- Instructors may require compulsory temperature checking of attendees either by a non-contact handheld thermometer, or showing a photo of temperature self-checking on that day.
- Staff and students who have a fever or respiratory symptoms should not attend classes and should seek medical assistance right away.
- Members should maintain hand hygiene at all time, and make use of hand sanitizers which will be provided at or near all classrooms.

Classroom Preventive Measures

- Classes with more than 75 students enrolled will continue to be delivered through on-line mode only, as will certain other classes for pedagogical reasons.
- The number of students in any classroom shall be limited to 50% of the original capacity of the room. When necessary, instructors shall develop mechanisms (such as rosters) to limit the number of students at f2f sessions.
- Students should sit in alternate seats whether they are fixed or movable.
- Instructors are recommended to take attendance of those physically present in case there is a need for contact tracing.

- Fresh air ventilation and environmental cleaning in classrooms will be enhanced to the extent feasible.
- Instructors and students are required to wear masks in classrooms. Masks with exhalation valves should not be used because these allow aerosols to escape unfiltered. Also face shields cannot replace face masks as they can only block large droplets.
- All students are requested to comply with preventive measures as informed by their instructors, and may be requested to leave the classroom in case of refusal.

Contingency Plan

- Should an instructor or student who had attended f2f classes test positive for COVID-19, he/she should file an online report at the COVID-19 portal page <https://covid19info.ust.hk/>, under Travel/Contact Reporting.
- Any class(es) the patient had attended f2f in the last 14 days shall revert to pure on-line mode for the next 14 days.
- Established procedures will be followed to inform instructors and students teaching or taking the same courses as the patient.

University management will closely monitor the changing situation and adjust the preventive measures when necessary. Please refer to the COVID-19 Information Portal webpage at <https://covid19info.ust.hk/> for latest university arrangements, including opening hours and usage requirements of campus facilities (e.g. Library and canteens).

As the University and the whole community gradually resume operations with COVID-19 preventive measures remain in place, we call for all members to sustain our fight against this pandemic, and continue to support each other in this difficult time.

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