



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, WEST INDIES

INTERNAL COMMUNIQUÉ

March 12, 2020

Campus COVID-19 Update

Dear Colleagues,

As of **3pm today**, March 12 the Ministry of Health confirmed the **first case of COVID-19 in Trinidad and Tobago**. Minister Deyalsingh urges the public to remain calm and continue to practice proper sanitisation and hygiene.

Please also note the following **Travel Advisory** now in effect for the St. Augustine Campus.

In the face of a sharp increase in the number of new COVID-19 cases outside China, local authorities widened the 14-day travel restriction list to include Singapore, Italy, Japan, Iran and South Korea on February 28. This 14-day restriction corresponds to the incubation period of the coronavirus and was first implemented at the end of January for persons coming from China, where the virus originated.

This Advisory relates to **staff, students and visitors** who are:

1. Returning to Campus from overseas travels
2. Persons considering overseas travels

Returning to Campus

If you are arriving in Trinidad and Tobago from the countries identified above, the Campus requires that you follow the restriction regulations imposed by the local Ministry of Health and Ministry of National Security. In some instances, this involves **Self-Quarantine** for 14 days from your date of return to Trinidad and Tobago, even if you do not feel ill.

Self-Quarantine means:

- For **local students** who live on campus, that you do not return to your dorm on Campus, but that you return to your home.
- For **regional and international students**, arrangements for self-quarantine on your Hall of Residence will be made, please contact Health Services Unit (Hotline: 728-2408) for assistance.
- **For all**, self-quarantine means that you do not attend class, work or group gatherings, or have visitors into your home.
- At **both the beginning and the end of the period of self-quarantine**, students must contact Health Services Unit (HSU) through Neil.Singh@sta.uwi.edu.
- **For staff who are self-quarantined and are not able to work from home** – They should report these absences as sick time to their respective Direct Supervisor and Head of Department. Staff may contact the Human Resources Division (662-2002 ext. 82312) with any questions.
- Staff must contact the Occupational Health, Safety and Environment (OHSE) Unit at 710-8138 at both the beginning and end of the period of self-quarantine and maintain daily communications with their Head of Department.

Travel Abroad

You are reminded that Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles has mandated a further restriction on travel to only the most essential matters.

This is an evolving situation and our Campus Incident Management Team continues to work with the Ministry and the UWI taskforce towards managing the situation.

Campus Gatherings

All Campuses of the University will postpone any events that can be classified as large gatherings. This includes conferences, guest lectures, public lectures etc.

Deans and Heads of Department will advise accordingly.

For more information about COVID-19, please visit: <https://sta.uwi.edu/covid19/>.

Marketing and Communications
on behalf of
Professor Brian Copeland
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal