

To: Staff and Students
cc: Deans, Heads and Programme Directors

Dear colleagues and students,

Suspension of Face-to-Face Practical or Lab/Studio-based Sessions

As the pandemic situation is deteriorating quickly and chains of positive cases related to students attending face-to-face practical or lab/studio-based sessions have been detected recently, the University has decided that ALL practical or lab/studio-based sessions requiring face-to-face contact will be suspended immediately till further notice.

To cater for the needs of final year students, Final Year Project may continue to be conducted in laboratories/studios/student project rooms, provided that all the safety precautionary measures as detailed in the Appendix are STRICTLY OBSERVED, and that ONLY fully vaccinated staff and students can participate (i.e. those who have completed the vaccination course for 14 days, please refer to the [Government website](#) for details). Under all circumstances, no grouping of more than 2 persons is allowed. In addition, all students MUST carry out rapid antigen test (RAT) and obtain a negative result before they use the laboratories/studios/student project rooms. The University will provide RAT kits through the departments for the students concerned.

There are certain programmes which must retain face-to-face practical or lab/studio-based sessions due to reasons such as professional requirements. Such programmes should submit a request to the Pandemic Risk Group and may continue with strict adherence to the safety precautionary measures stipulated by the Group.

Arising from the suspension of face-to-face practical or lab/studio-based sessions, most of these classes will extend into the summer months. All affected staff and students should take this into account when planning for their summer engagements while final year students should be aware that they may graduate later than the normal schedule.

We will continue to monitor the pandemic situation and review our teaching arrangements as needed. Please check your email and the [Bulletin Board for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) regularly for updated information from the University.

I appeal to your understanding on the adoption of the above arrangements in such a short notice. Please remain vigilant, stay safe and healthy.

Albert Chau
Vice-President (Teaching and Learning)

24 February 2022

**Safety Precautionary Measures for
the Use of Laboratories/Studios/Student Project Rooms**

- a. All students using the laboratories / studios / student project rooms must carry out rapid antigen test. Only students with a negative result shall be allowed to use the laboratories / studios / student project rooms.
- b. The maximum students allowed inside the room cannot exceed 50% of its capacity.
- c. Grouping of more than 2 is not allowed.
- d. Social distance of 1.5m should be maintained at all times. Mask must also be worn at all times and therefore, practicum involving masks off cannot be carried out.
- e. There must be no eating or drinking inside laboratories / studios / student project rooms.
- f. Students must pay attention to personal hygiene. Hand sanitizer will be provided in the laboratories / studios / student project rooms. Sanitizing spray for surfaces will also be provided such that students can use it anytime.
- g. Subject to the utilization rate, opening time of the laboratories / studios / student project rooms may be divided into sessions lasting not longer than half a day. When such measure is implemented, all students MUST leave the facility at the end of each session such that disinfection of tabletops, chairs and equipment such as computers will be carried out.
- h. Students using laboratories / studios / student project rooms must sign in and sign out at the register provided by the department, and observe all the safety rules.

The above safety measures will be further updated depending on the COVID-19 situation in Hong Kong. Please contact the Sustainability, Health and Safety Unit of the Estates Office at the 24-hour hotline 34117997 if you have any question.