

Attn: Students of Kochi University of Technology and their Family Members
Nov.11 2021

President, Kochi University of Technology

Conduct of Classes during the Fourth Quarter

Face-to-face classes have been conducted from the third quarter across all grades at the university. While the number of face-to-face classes is still low for some grades, more students are now returning to the campus. Fortunately, no cases of COVID-19 infection have been reported at our university so far, and the COVID-19 situation in Kochi prefecture is also under control. We have previously conducted a survey regarding the fourth quarter, which found that the worries of our students are gradually abating. The vast majority of infection clusters at other universities can be traced to meals, karaoke sessions, and communal living in student dormitories, while no cluster traceable to classes has been reported. In view of this, we notify you that our university will be conducting face-to-face classes as much as possible for all grades in the fourth quarter as previously planned, with the exception of some courses such as lecture-based courses with a large number of attendees.

We will continue to cater to students who are absent from classes because they are unable to satisfy the requirements to participate in face-to-face activities on campus, such as students who are not feeling well, by providing educational instruction including assignments and on-demand streaming of recorded classes, and so on.

We will continue to adopt precautionary measures aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19 that we had implemented in the third quarter, such as leaving an empty seat between students in classrooms. As such, even though there will be no changes to the classroom environment from that in the third quarter, there will be more students on campus as compared to the third quarter due to the increase in the number of courses conducting face-to-face classes. At the same time, we are concerned that certain factors may trigger the spread of COVID-19 such as inadequate ventilation as well as a more extensive dispersion of the virus which can survive for longer periods due to the lower temperature and humidity. Moreover, as the fourth quarter leads into the New Year holidays, it is also possible for any COVID-19 infection to spread when students return to their hometown.

Our university is committed to preventing COVID-19 infection on campus more than the third quarter by continuing our policy of current irregular class timetable and strengthening safety precautions at our cafeterias. However, the actions taken by each individual student are of paramount importance to our success. We would like to seek the cooperation of all students to continue to wear masks, practice social distancing, and comply with other precautionary measures not only during class time but also at lunch, extracurricular activities, and when you are off-campus in order to protect yourself and others around you.

In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak on campus, it is possible for many or all courses to be forced to conduct remote classes or for the university to temporarily prohibit entry to the campus during the quarter, depending on the severity of the outbreak on-campus and off-campus. We hope that every student can cooperate with us by paying particular attention to your actions without letting your guard down so that our university life can resume safely.