

OIST Basic policy for dealing with novel coronaviruses

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As of November 2021, the state of emergency in Japan has been lifted, the peak of the infection has subsided, and daily life seems to have returned to normal. However, if we look at the world, the situation is not yet under control, and we cannot allow ourselves to be too optimistic. Under these circumstances, the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University (OIST) is in the process of resuming daily activities as much as possible while taking all possible measures to prevent infection.

To achieve this, the following is our basic policy.

1. OIST restores a place where faculty, staff, students, and others can feel safe in their daily lives and find many opportunities and meaning through learning, research, activities, and working at OIST.
2. OIST faculty, staff, students, and stakeholders will engage in dialogue and collaborate to promote specific actions quickly.
3. In principle, infection control at OIST will follow the policies of the Okinawa Prefectural Government. However, sufficient consideration will be given to the international nature and diversity of OIST.
4. OIST recommends that all personnel, including contractors, take basic infection prevention measures based on the "New Normal" and be vaccinated or PCR tested. However, OIST will make every effort to ensure no discrimination, exclusion, deprivation of opportunities, or other disadvantages due to the inability to receive vaccinations or PCR tests due to various reasons, including physical conditions.

Level and Standard (New "Level")	Research Activities	Classes	Business Trip	Internal Meetings	Academic and Business Events	Club and Recreational Activities
0 No new infection cases	Normal Operation with basic infection control.					
1 Hospitals can balance COVID-19 and general treatments.	Research activities can be carried out by implementing infection prevention measures through each faculty and Unit/Section's management.	With adequate infection prevention measures in place, the classes will be conducted through face-to-face instruction and online instruction.	Check the infection status at the business trip location. PCR tests, etc., should be conducted after the business trip.	Internal meetings should be conducted face-to-face and online, with adequate infection prevention measures.	They can be conducted under the policies of Okinawa Prefecture, with sufficient infection control measures in place.	
2 The number of coronavirus infection cases is on the rise. Hospitals can provide COVID-19 treatment by increasing beds in stages.					They are conducted online as much as possible. If necessary, they can be held face-to-face under the policies of Okinawa Prefecture, with sufficient infection control measures in place.	
3 Hospitals manage to give COVID-19 treatment by limiting general treatment. Equivalent to conventional "Stage 3" or "Stage 4."	Research activities can be carried out by implementing infection prevention measures through each faculty and Unit/Section's management. But time spent in the field will be reduced, and online activities will be encouraged.	In principle, classes are conducted online. In cases where face-to-face sessions are essential for regular examinations, dissertation examinations, practical skills, experiments, and training courses, face-to-face sessions will be conducted with sufficient infection prevention measures in place.	Business trips are possible only when it is necessary. PCR tests, etc., should be conducted after the business trip.	In principle, internal meetings are conducted online. They can be done face-to-face if sufficient infection prevention measures are taken.	In principle, they are conducted online.	
4 Hospitals are unable to treat all COVID-19 patients.						