



March 19, 2020

To: students, administrative and academic staff members and visitors of the Technion

Re: Technion preparations in the face of the spread of the Corona virus – update #8

Dear all,

Starting yesterday morning, the Technion shifted to an emergency mode of operations. Teaching is provided on-line; most of the research, except some critical facilities and labs that are engaged in specific Corona-related research, has ceased; most of our employees are on forced vacation (except few that comprise the emergency team on campus and a small number of employees that were permitted to work from home).

Last evening, we signed agreements with the senior and junior academic staff unions that guarantee the continuation of the Spring semester and meeting all its regular tasks even if it will require supplementary work into the Summer.

So far, we know of only one student that was infected with Covid-19. He was supposed to be in isolation in our dorms but preferred to do it at home. Hence, none of his fellow dorm mates was required to be in quarantine. This demonstrates the risks of staying in crowded places like dorm units that house 4-5 students in each apartment and hundreds in each building – if one of them is infected, the whole building (possibly, an entire complex) may be put in forced quarantine. I therefore repeat my call for students who have other options, to consider spending the next few weeks outside the campus to avoid the risks. I received reports that some students in the dorms were seen congregating in the self-learning rooms or other public spaces, parents that let their kids play with other kids in the playgrounds etc. Such gatherings are strictly forbidden, and I have asked our security unit to increase the frequency of patrols on campus to impose this "social distance" code. Please note that disobedience of our guidelines will be treated as a violation of the Technion disciplinary code and this may lead to serious disciplinary sanctions.

The Technion continue to offer various services including psychological service to those in need. International students who need urgent help are kindly requested to call Ms. Michal Kaisari 052-690-3607.

The Israeli economy, like most of the economies around the world, is now experiencing a huge recession – dramatic increase in unemployment, loss of income and increase in expenses. The Technion is not spared from this crisis – we expect a very rough financial period ahead. My office has received numerous requests for help (students who can't pay their tuition or rent, employees in need, etc.). We shall do our utmost to help but please understand that our ability to do so is totally dependent on external help as we, too, are facing an unprecedented deficit. Earlier this week we have established an Emergency Fund and asked our supporters in Israel and abroad to help us. Even though each of them faces challenges at home, I am sure some will respond to our call and reach out to help us. If some of you know others who might consider helping us by donating to this fund, please feel free to share this letter with them.

Finally, the most important message today is social distance – except for truly essential errands, please stay at home and avoid inviting others to your home. Keep on washing your hands and avoid touching surfaces with your bare hands in public places. This will help us shorten the tough time we are all experiencing now.

Executive Vice President and Director General
משנה לנשיא ומנכ"ל



Stay well,

Prof. Boaz Golany
Executive Vice President and Director General