

August 30, 2021

To All Extracurricular Activities Groups

Vice President (Student Services)
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How We Are Handling Extracurricular Activities During the COVID-19 Surge

A state of emergency has been declared in Aichi Prefecture from August 27 to September 12. We have comprehensively considered a variety of factors, including the spread of the Delta variant, which is much more infectious than the original strain; the explosive increase in the number of infections in Aichi Prefecture; and the increase in the number of people in Nagoya University extracurricular groups who have been infected, exposed, or ordered to quarantine at home. With the aim of welcoming the fall semester in October without any disruptions, we have decided to raise the Extracurricular Activities Level in the Guidelines for Activities at Nagoya University During the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic as described below.

Please make sure that all members of each club/team are aware of and comply with the new Extracurricular Activities Level.

“Guidelines for Activities at Nagoya University During the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic”

Level 3: All activities suspended

- ◆ During this period, all face-to-face activities are prohibited, including regular practices and meetings, games/matches, concerts/performances, and training camps. Online activities, such as those on SNS, are still permitted.
- ◆ Furthermore, the use of all facilities for extracurricular activities, including club rooms and athletic facilities, is prohibited.
- ◆ **We also ask that clubs and other groups that are not officially recognized by the University also cancel their activities.**

Effective Period: September 1 (Wed.) to September 30 (Thur.), 2021

Reason for the decision to suspend all activities:

Up to now, we had asked everyone involved in clubs/teams to implement thorough

measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and thanks to your efforts, we were successful in preventing infections caused by extracurricular activities until mid-August. I am very grateful to everyone for your cooperation in these efforts. However, the unfortunate reality is that there is a surge in infections not just in Aichi Prefecture as a whole, but also here at Nagoya University, and cases related to extracurricular activities are being reported daily.

The Delta variant, which is currently sweeping through Japan, is highly infectious. According to the CDC (the USA's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), the base reproduction number, which represents how many other people someone with a disease is expected to infect, is only about 2 for the original strain, but is somewhere between 5 and 9.5 for the Delta variant. This puts Delta on a level with the highly infectious chicken pox (varicella). Furthermore, it has been reported that airborne (aerosol) transmission is also possible. As we all know, infections among young people are rapidly increasing, and young people are not safe from serious illness.

Due to the spread of the Delta variant, infection control measures at health centers have also changed. Under the guidance of the Chikusa Health Center, which has jurisdiction over Nagoya University, it has been determined that activities by athletic teams involving physical contact and clubs involving frequent aerosol emissions are akin to close contact, even if they are limited to short periods of time and masks are worn (other than N95 masks). Even if the people involved are not officially designated as close contacts, there is little choice but to treat them like close contacts and have them quarantine at home for 14 days. As a result, over the two-week period from the middle of August to the end of August, a total of eight infected people and approximately 70 close contacts in eight groups have been identified in connection with extracurricular activities, and including infected people and close contacts, approximately 250 students are currently quarantining at home.

This trend has only accelerated in recent days, and there is little hope that the types of anti-infection measures we have relied on thus far are enough to stop its momentum. As a university, we consider ourselves to be in an extremely precarious situation that threatens our ability to protect the lives and health of our students and maintain our education and research activities. At Nagoya University, we have poured our efforts into on-campus vaccinations with the goal of conducting our fall semester classes in a manner that is closer to normal. However, considering that current operations require anyone who may have been infected to quarantine for 14 days, negative impacts to the coming fall semester are inevitable unless we act now. Therefore, although it was a difficult decision, we have come to the conclusion that we have no choice but to suspend all extracurricular activities until fall semester classes begin.

I understand that the period from now until fall is an important time for

extracurricular groups, and I am terribly saddened at the enormous effect this ban on extracurricular activities will have on everyone. But I hope all our students understand that this decision was made in order to protect you, your families, and friends from this disease. Come October, we will consider how to best balance extracurricular activities and anti-infection measures amidst Delta's spread, and we will review our current approach in the hopes of resuming extracurricular activities. Our decision to suspend all extracurricular activities was made with the goal of breaking the chain of ever-increasing infections so that we can restart extracurricular activities in October. But we cannot do this without your help and cooperation. Please, comply with the Activities Guidelines and cancel all extracurricular activities through September. Thank you.