



March 31, 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 #10

Dear all,

A new set of emergency regulations will get into effect tomorrow (April 1st) morning. The number of Technion employees permitted to enter campus will be further reduced and new permits were issued to those on the reduced list. People holding these permits will be asked to present them along with their ID to the guards at the Technion gate. The guards will check the body temperature of people coming to the campus to verify that it is under 38C. Anyone with higher temperature will not be allowed in.

Students living the campus dorms can continue to use the permits issued to them last week (no new permits are necessary for them). Given the new regulations, visitors to the dorms will not be allowed to enter the campus.

Our on-line teaching efforts have thus far proven themselves and a survey conducted two days ago indicated 97.5% satisfaction from the on-line system. However, we still face challenges such as handling the mid-term exams expected later this semester. A team headed by the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Prof. Hossam Haick, is busy providing solutions to the problems that lie ahead.

During the last week the VP for Resource Development, Prof. Alon Wolf, coordinated with our societies of friends in Israel and abroad the launching of an emergency fund aimed at supporting our students. I am happy to share that some supporters have already stepped up to the plate and made some nice donations. I hope that many others will follow. The resources raised this way will help us increase the number of support scholarships and loans we will be able to offer to needy students through the Dean of Students Office.

Last week we have also launched an internal solidarity fund and asked our senior academic staff to donate part of their salary to help employees who find themselves facing difficult economic challenges. I salute the hundreds of active and emeriti professors who have already signed in on this initiative and call on those that have not yet done so to consider it favorably.

The number of Technion labs engaged in Corona-related research has risen to 30 and in some cases we start to see fruits. A sticker developed in the lab of Prof. Eyal Zussman (Mechanical Eng.) was designed to be attached to ordinary face masks and increase dramatically their effectiveness in shielding against the virus. Diagnostic Robotics, a company founded by Prof. Moshe Shoham (Mechanical Eng.) and Dr. Kira Radinsky (Computer Science) developed a system based on big data and machine learning capabilities to monitor the spread of the disease and block its spread.

Please follow the new emergency regulations and stay home except for truly essential errands.

Be well,

Prof. Boaz Golany
Executive Vice President and Director General