



March 16, 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 #7

Dear all,

This evening the government of Israel declared a state of emergency in all public sector organizations starting on the morning of Wednesday 18-March. The implications to the Technion are as follows:

Teaching

- We continue our efforts to launch the Spring semester on Wednesday using remote teaching technologies to provide most of the courses on-line with the exception of courses that require physical presence on campus (e.g. sports, labs, etc.).
- A large-scale exercise in remote teaching is planned for tomorrow morning involving dozens of courses and hundreds of students. The exercise will test the ability of our servers to sustain the load of many courses offered on-line simultaneously.
- At this stage it's still unclear whether it will be possible to offer part of the on-line teaching from the campus or only from home. This issue will become clear tomorrow and we will update accordingly

Research

- Most of the research labs will be closed from Wednesday morning onwards. Labs that require lengthy shutdown procedures will start the shutting down protocols tomorrow morning and will complete it by Thursday afternoon.
- Several critical research infrastructure where shutting down is not feasible (e.g., the Microscopy center) will continue to be maintained during the forced vacation period but no research will be allowed in these facilities throughout this period.
- A limited number of labs, approved by the VP for Research, where Corona-specific research is carried out will continue to function.

Technical and Administrative Staff

- Most of the employees in the Technion and TRDF will be on vacation starting Wednesday March 18th and ending on Sunday April 19th.
- According the Ministry of Finance instructions, workers who will exhaust their vacation quota will continue the vacation as a leave-of-absence. We are looking into other possibilities to avoid this scenario and will update when we find out more about this matter.
- The heads of the HR dept. at the Technion and TRDF have issued appointments to a small number of employees that will comprise the emergency team. These employees will be asked to report to work as needed during the forced vacation.
- We may obtain permission to allow a limited number of additional employees to work from home during the vacation. This issue will be checked tomorrow, and we will update accordingly.

Executive Vice President and Director General
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It is quite possible that additional measures will need to be taken to slow down the alarming spread of the Corona virus. We continue to monitor the situation and will update everyone when needed.

The Technion is doing its utmost to salvage the Spring semester. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved – academic, technical and admin staff as well as the students for the incredible cooperation spirit we have witnessed in recent days. I am certain that if we continue working hand-in-hand, we will overcome the challenges brought upon us and come out of this testing times stronger than before.

With best regards,

Prof. Boaz Golany
Executive Vice President and Director General