

Message from the President

To all students,

Recently, the number of confirmed novel coronavirus (COVID-19) infections in Japan has been significantly decreasing, following a period of rapid increase throughout the preceding months. In January, I issued an urgent message requesting all students to take every possible measure to prevent the spread of the virus. As a result of everyone's efforts, no group infection has occurred at the university so far. I would like to thank all of you for helping us in our virus-prevention efforts.

During the high-risk period, most of the university's classes have been conducted online, and new teaching styles were successfully employed thanks to the efforts of our students and faculty members. It is undeniable, however, that the most important aspect of university life, whereby students and faculty members directly interact and inspire each other, has largely been lost.

In order to regain those highly important aspects of education as soon as possible, we are planning to conduct face-to-face classes to the extent possible in the coming semester, while also continuing online classes where appropriate. The graduation, degree conferral, and entrance ceremonies, which were cancelled last year due to COVID-19, will be held with appropriate infection prevention measures. However, as the COVID-19 virus has not yet been completely contained, the risk of infection still remains. We will therefore continue to take all possible measures to prevent the spread of the virus as we ease activity restrictions. We also ask all of our students to continue taking the necessary virus prevention measures, including wearing a mask.

With university and daily life activities having now been restricted for approximately a year, I think that many of our students must be feeling a great deal of stress and anxiety. I would like to urge students who are experiencing any mental or physical problems, or worries about their studies, to please consult with good friends, faculty members, the university's General Student Support Center, or your department's consultation services. We will continue to make our utmost efforts to ensure that your time at the university is as rewarding and enjoyable as possible.

February 28, 2021

Nagahiro Minato

President

Kyoto University