

COVID-19

UWI OC COMMUNIQUE # 1

From the Principal and the Open Campus COVID-19 Emergency Management Team

The UWI Approach

As we continue to plan and act to protect all of our staff, students and their families from being affected by the COVID-19 Virus, we will give you regular updates in print, video and mini-Town Halls about our plans and progress of the disease. The OCLT and the COVID-19 Emergency Management Team are meeting at least three times a week and in synchronous and asynchronous communication several times a day.

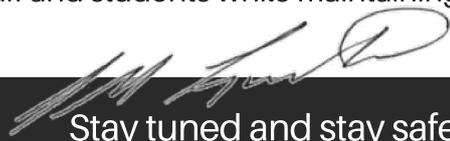
Regional Updates

Here are some quick updates on the Campus' current status:

1. The Jamaican Government has closed all schools for 14 days. The UWI Mona Campus has suspended classes for a month, but is still open for administrative purposes.
2. In line with the Jamaican Government's actions and The UWI's approach, The Open Campus in Jamaica will also suspend face-to-face classes at Sites from Monday **March 16, 2020** and we are working with Tutors to move to an online engagement with the students. Note that this does **NOT** affect online courses for our degree programmes.
3. In Jamaica we will also remain open for administrative purposes but as we have many staff members who can easily work online. Departments will be looking at actively implementing Home Based Work Arrangements (HBWA) with specific staff from Monday March 16, 2020. Other OC Sites and locations outside of Jamaica are also moving into planning phase should this approach also be necessary for their countries.

Smart management

4. We have agreed to host our Annual Council Meeting online instead of on site in St Vincent and the Grenadines. This is to minimize travel and ensure the safety of all who are members of that group. We have also postponed the Re-Opening of our St Vincent and the Grenadines Site.
5. Travel restrictions are in place. Staff and students are advised to cancel all non-essential travel at this time. Any official travel has to be approved by the Principal and must be mission critical.
6. Our HR Office must be advised immediately of any Home Based Work Arrangements and also of any cases of illness or possible exposure to the Coronavirus.
7. We will be meeting with our students in a Town Hall organized by the Guild this evening to advise them of our strategies to mitigate exposure and to assure them of the continuity of their education. One major concern is of course the holding of Examinations. The UWI as a whole is examining various options including postponement of examinations, using the existing Examination Regulations and online options.
8. The APAD team is working closely with sister Campuses to enable them to move their classes quickly online. A big "shout out" to Dr Gaspard-Richards and her team for their proactive approach.
9. As each country moves into its various national emergency plans the Open Campus will put in place the necessary measures to protect staff and students while maintaining business continuity in line with the national and UWI guidelines.



Stay tuned and stay safe